

Pretrial Sermons 8-26-1973

Trial Sermon 9-23-73

Begin Pastorate 12-2-1973 through 3-31-74



Ralph Charles Link, Shirley Link (his wife), daughter Nancy in White, Ralph Dale Link in white shirt and tie only, Lloyd Link in multi-blue/purple color shirt, Lianne Link (R. Dale's wife) in multi-color dress, Karen Link (Lloyd's wife) in rose color outfit, Jessica in front of Ralph Charles Link, Ethan & Alisha Link in front of their mother (Lianne Link & Dale Link's children)

These Sermons were made available by Shirley Link and R. Dale Link (Dale) to Peter-John Parisis.

May God and God Only Receive ALL the Glory!

October 29, 2011 9:41 A.M. Eastern Time

Call to Worship: ~~Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord~~ The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nought; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his heritage.

Call to Confession: Come let us seek the Lord, while He ~~is near~~ may be found. Let us call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him turn unto the Lord, and He will abundantly pardon. Let us pray

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: The Psalmist says, "O Thou who hearest prayer! To Thee shall all flesh come on account of sins. When our transgressions prevail over us, thou dost forgive them. Amen.

Original

Janitor & call to church.

I Samuel 16:13, Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward."

II Samuel 2:4, "And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah."

II Samuel 5:3, "So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and king David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel."

Psalms 23, "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup ~~ever~~ runneth over."

Psalms 92:10, "But Thou hast exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; Thou hast poured over me

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP July 1, 1973

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 1
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Almighty God: You love us, but we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with prejudice, warfare and greed. God our Father, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture --- Acts 10:34-46
*The Gloria Patri
The Pastoral Prayer
The Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 441
The Sermon --- "Fresh Oil!"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 443
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the special collection for the Perry Health Center. A basket is placed in the back of the church for anyone wanting to contribute.

We will have summer communion next Sunday July 8th in both churches.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Men's Brotherhood will have the worship service at the Kinkora Home today at 2:00 PM.

The consistory will meet Monday July 2nd at 7:30 PM.

Mrs. Nellie Gamber is in the Polyclinic hospital room 444.

Cheryl Snyder is in Polyclinic M 309

Trinity: Inez Harms is in the Hanover Gen. Hosp

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 23, 1973
REV. RALPH C. LINK, GUEST MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
ELDER ROBERT TAIT, LITURGIST
PATTY BASEHORE, CHRIS CAMPBELL - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP - 11:00

PRELUDE MUSIC: "ANDANTE CON MOTO" NORMAN
"MORNING REVERIE" RUSSELL

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 286 "WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?"

*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, CREATOR AND FATHER,
WE COME BEFORE YOU A REBELLIOUS PEOPLE. WE HAVE DENIED
YOUR INTENTIONS FOR US; WE HAVE PREFERRED OUR WAY TO
CHRIST'S WAY; WE HAVE DISOBEYED YOUR COMMANDMENTS; AND
WE HAVE WORSHIPED OURSELVES AND THE THINGS WE HAVE MADE.
FORGIVE US, RESTORE IN US THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHO WE ARE,
AND MAKE US ALIVE TO SERVE YOU IN FAITH, OBEDIENCE, AND
JOY; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*LAY READER: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 10: 34-43

HYMN No. 479 "THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY"

ORGAN MEDIATION

SERMON: "FRESH OIL!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*GLORIA PATRI

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "HOW GREAT THOU ART"

HIME

*CALL TO PRAYER

*LAY READER: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*LAY READER: LET US PRAY

*OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY: "AUTUMNAL BEAUTY" WOLF

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 253 "TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL" ARMSTRONG

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MRS. HAROLD SANDBACH IN MEMORY OF HER "MOTHER"

MRS. PERRIN.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *DAVID CURTIS, MONT

MACKINNEY, JOHN DREHER AND GEORGE NAZARUK.

ELDER AND MRS. ROBERT BASEHORE WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL

AT THE DOOR TODAY.

WE WISH TO THANK REV. RALPH C. LINK FOR BEING WITH US

TODAY. REV. LINK WAS SELECTED BY YOUR PASTORAL

COMMITTEE TO PREACH A TRIAL SERMON. CONGREGATION HAS

VOTE AT THE END OF THE SERVICE. THE USHERS WILL COLLECT

THE BALLOTS.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 183.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY IN THE UNDERCROFT.

THOSE HOSPITALIZED: OUR PRAYERS GO TO EDWARD WEICHEY

WHO IS IN CLEVELAND CLINIC; TOM RAIMONDI AND MR. W.A.

WINTERS IN BOMH.

NEXT SUNDAY THEIR HAS BEEN TWO REQUESTS FOR BAPTISM,

IF ANYONE ELSE WISHES TO HAVE THEIR BABY BAPTIZED,

LET BEA TAIT KNOW THIS WEEK.

OCT. 7 - HOLY COMMUNION IN PEWS AT 11:00 SERVICE.

IF ANYONE HAS APPLES THAT CAN BE USED FOR MAKING APPLE

BUTTER FOR THE SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER BAZAAR - CALL

MRS. EARL WOGAN OR MRS. GUY ARMSTRONG - IT WON'T BE

LONG - OCT. 16TH.

OUR THANKS TO ELDER ROBERT TAIT FOR ASSISTING WITH THE

SERVICE TODAY AND SERVING AS LITURGIST.

ALVIN TAIT WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

FOR HELPING TO USHER AT PROJECT '73: MR. & MRS. MIKE

NAZARUK, ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG, CHUCK AND GARY PENAR,

J. WALTER HARMON, BOB KNAYER AND HOWARD BOLAM. IONE

PFLUGH AND DELORES HERRIT ALSO OFFERED THEIR SERVICES.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MRS. RAY

PETERS (LEONA) WHO PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK.

WHEEL CHAIR PROJECT FOR OCTOBER AT THE V.A. HOSPITAL -

ANYONE WISHING TO VOLUNTEER THEIR SERVICES - CALL

BILL PFLUGH OR BEA TAIT - THEY NEED YOU.

fraternal organization. It is not just a "pleasant hobby for older people," as one woman put it recently. There is something about this Christian faith that demands everything.

This is what Elihu was saying to Job when he said, "But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. Behold, my heart is like wine that has ~~no~~ no vent; like new wineskins, it is ready to burst. I must speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer."

True Christian faith touches everything about us and around us if we have it. It transforms everything. Someone once said to me that emotion has its place, and its place is not in a worship service. But I don't think we can truly worship if we omit being emotional. We certainly would not go to see our favorite baseball team and not get very much involved in the game. Nor would we go to any sporting event and not cheer our favorite on. But how many times do we not get involved in the worship of God on a Sunday morning?

ENTHUSIASM AT MERGERSBURG. DR. MYER & ALL OF FOLK & CROSS ENTHUSIASTICALLY.
Elihu was telling Job, "I'm so full of this spirit of God,

I can no longer contain it. I must speak or I will burst." The Apostles were so full they had to let go, and they were accused of being drunk.

As we look again at another birthday of the church, may it not merely be another listless occasion, much like we may celebrate our birthdays, when we no longer want to be reminded that life is getting on. But may the birthday of the church be instead, like a birthday to a young child. Something to look forward to, with a cake and candles to blow out and a real celebration for what God has done in the past. May we perhaps echo the words of Elihu, "My heart is like wine that has no vent; like new wineskins, it is ready to burst. We must speak that we may have relief; we must open our lips and answer." We must share the enthusiasm we have for the Christian faith with others, as well as sharing it each time we worship.

Isn't he perhaps right. At the different concerts at the schools recently I looked around at the people when a number was finished and mostly all I saw was a little bit of polite applause, and no enthusiasm.

(Illustration of tombstone in New England, "No enthusiasm")

Is this what has happened to Christianity? Where is the enthusiasm? Where is the "God within" spirit? Did this disappear with the early church?

(Illustration of slave woman and getting religion)

No one is really supposed to get religion as they did at Pentecost. If we see it happen to someone today, we say that he ~~is~~ cannot possibly be sincere. The early Christians were called drunk. One minister tells of a woman in his congregation who stays away from church because the pastor in the pulpit gets too excited about things. He said she likes to go to church to be soothed and rested and comforted and told lovely little stories that do not cause her to squirm or to take fresh stock of her Christianity weekly.

But this woman is not alone in her convictions. We tend to pull away from fervor. We tend to be suspicious about anyone who has enthusiasm in his faith. Enthusiasm in Christianity has a strange way of disturbing the status quo all along the line. Let a man be on fire with his faith and strange things are bound to happen. Martin Luther knew the wonder of this being on fire for the Lord. He once said, "I say one thing boldly and freely that nobody is nearer God than those who hate and deny Him, and He has no more dear children than these." What he meant was that unless Christ matters most to you, He doesn't matter at all.

Faith is not just one more interest in life, side by side with other involvements. Its not just another civic club, or

YOUNG MINISTER, HEAL DEAD, CAST OUT SICK, RAISE DEVILS.
MAY BE WRONG BUT ENTHUSIASTIC.

Here we have a good example of the current trend in religion, and unfortunately in many churches. ^{COLLEGES & EVEN CHURCHES} Many seminaries are trying desperately to explain away the Virgin birth of Jesus, His miracles, and anything that cannot be properly explained. One easy way to explain something unusual that happens is to say that the person who relates it is drunk. After all when a person is drunk, he cannot be held accountable for his actions.

(Illustration of Dr. Halford Luccock and D.D.)

Isn't this the case today? Following the Baccalaureate service at West Perry last Sunday evening, as I was taking off my robe, and preparing to leave the school, Mrs. Smith the music teacher and director of the chorus came up to me and said; "I just wanted to say Amen, all through your sermon, and I ^{FINALLY} did at the very end when you finished." I told her, "I wish you would have said it several times," and I meant it.

The Spirit of God at work is something that is alive and vital. It is animated and moving. It cannot be contained and shut up in a vacuum. Look at the prophets of Israel: Elijah stripped down to his loin cloth, running ahead of the chariot of King Ahab; ~~Hosea~~ Hosea, marrying a prostitute to show the people God's mercy toward them. Isaiah walking for 3 days stark naked through the streets of Jerusalem to show the people how God would strip the city in the days ahead. Christ accused of stirring up the people.

Always we see action and movement involved. When people were confronted by Christ or the preaching of the Gospel, they cried out, they wept aloud. They shouted for joy. They sang praises from the very depths of their beings. They lifted their voices in loud praise and in singing. They ran. They leaped. They danced. They fell on their faces in the dust. In other words they showed their emotions.

^{THEY WERE ENTHUSIASTIC.}

(Illustration of man and his dog act, "dogs not playing dead anymore)

"Another Year, Another Candle!"

Text: Job 32:8, 19, 20,

"But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. Behold, my heart is like wine that has no vent; like new wineskins, it is ready to burst. I must speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer."

In the second chapter of Acts we read the magnificent story of Pentecost.

(vss 1-4,) They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance. Here we see the for the first time, the public display of men who were literally on fire for God. They were visited by the Holy Spirit, and it came to them we are told as tongues of fire resting on each one of them, and they began to preach as they had never preached before.

(vss 5-12), All of the people assembled were able to hear these preachers in their own language for the first time. Here were uneducated men mostly who could now speak foreign languages. Naturally this caused a great stir among the ~~xxx~~ crowd and they began to question, "What does this mean?" They couldn't understand it, and probably if the Apostles had been asked to explain it, they could not have done so either. There is and was ~~xxx~~ no easy answer to the miracle that God was performing.

(vss 13), As usual someone had to add the sour grapes to this happy and wonderful occasion. The human thing to do is to find a logical explanation and then explain away something that defies description.

For those of you who have access to the June 4th issue of Newsweek magazine, you will find in there on page 73 an article about Jesus Christ, showing him to be merely an excellent magician. It does away with the raising of Lazarus from the dead. It implies that Jesus used some sort of secret, and possibly sexual baptismal ceremony for initiation into the Kingdom of God, for a few select disciples. The disciples did not see him risen from the dead, but merely had such an emotional dependence upon him, they had hallucinations that he was alive.

Call to Worship: God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Call to Confession: The spirit and the bride say "Come." And let him who hears say, "Come." And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price. Jesus invites us to come and seek forgiveness at all times. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

VBS, Duncannon, New Bloomfield, 9:00 - 11:30 daily.

Groundbreaking today, Perry Village.

All 3 graduates are honor students from Trinity.

Jim Gelbach, Dan Sausman delegates from respect. churches.

Rev. Horace Sills elected pres. will be here Aug 26

ORGAN FUND 291.00

PARENT MEETING WED.
CHILDREN DAY PRAYERS WED 7:00

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 26, 1973
REV. RALPH C. LINK, GUEST MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
ELDER CHESTER STAUFFER, LITURGIST
PAULA STEPHENSON, GORDON KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE: "LARGETTO QUASI ANDANTINO" RAFF
SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 43 "WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES"

*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (UNISON) "MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, WE HAVE DONE
LITTLE TO FORWARD THY KINGDOM IN THIS WORLD, TO ESTABLISH
THE BROTHERHOOD OF MEN, AND LOVE AS THE LAW OF LIFE. WE
HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT WHATSOEVER IS DONE TO ONE OF THE LEAST
OF THY BRETHREN IS DONE UNTO THEE. PARDON OUR SHORTCOMINGS;
FORGIVE OUR PAST NEGLECT. GIVE US A SIMPLE AND A SINGLE HEART
INTENT ON PLEASING THEE. HELP US IN ALL OUR SEEKING TO SEEK
FIRST THY KINGDOM AND THY RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT WE MAY BE
BLESSED WITH THE FULL MEASURE OF THY BLESSING. AND MAKE US
TO COME, AS CAME THY SON JESUS CHRIST, NOT TO BE MINISTERED
UNTO, BUT TO MINISTER. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*LAY READER: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOB 32: 6-22

HYMN No. 226 "DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MAN-KIND"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "ONCE MORE, WITH FEELING"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*GLORIA PATRI

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

FLUTE DUET: "IN THE UPPER GARDEN" - C. AUSTIN MILES

BY ROLAND THOMPSON AND MRS. EUGENE STEPHENSON

CALL TO PRAYER

*LAY READER: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*LAY READER: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "ANDANTE"

STEELE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 253 "TAKE MY LIFE"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO"

DUBOIS

*CONGREGATION STANDING -----
THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
MR. & MRS. GUY ARMSTRONG IN HONOR OF THEIR 31ST
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. - CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ARMSTRONGS.
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *GEORGE NAZARUK, WILLIAM
CAMPBELL, DAVID CURTIS AND MONTY MACKINNEY.
MR. & MRS. EARL WOGAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE
DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. JOHN REDMAN.

WE WISH TO THANK REV. RALPH C. LINK FOR BRINGING THE
MESSAGE TODAY. WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE REV. LINK AND HIS
WIFE AND FAMILY WITH US TODAY.

OUR THANKS TO ELDER CHET STAUFFER FOR SERVING AS
LITURGIST AND ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 125.

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS WILL BE BEGINNING SOON - PLEASE
LET BEA TAIT KNOW THIS WEEK, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

THE FOLLOWING ARE IN BCMH: MRS. NORABEL COOPER, ROBERT
PETERS, JAMES POLLIARD, RAYMOND MILLER, STANLEY REGIS.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU.

MONDAY - 8:00 - PASTORAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING -

BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAYS NEXT WEEK - THIS MEETING WILL
TAKE THE PLACE OF THE ONE ON SEPT. 3.

THE LIBRARY BOARD HAS MOVED THE LIBRARY BOOKS DOWN TO
THE ROOM NEXT TO THE ORGAN. FEEL FREE TO USE THE BOOKS,
THAT IS WHY IT WAS MOVED DOWN ON THIS FLOOR - SO THEY
WOULD BE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO YOU.

OUR CHURCH HAS THE WHEEL CHAIR PROJECT FOR OCTOBER
1973. WE WILL HAVE FOUR (4) SUNDAYS OCT. 7, 14, 21,
AND THE 28TH. PLEASE COME FORWARD IF YOU CAN HELP
WITH THIS WORTH-WHILE PROJECT - CONTACT WILLIAM PFLUGH,
OR BEA TAIT IN THE OFFICE OR HOME. WE NEED YOU.
NEXT SUNDAY - SEPT. 2 - WE REVERT BACK TO FALL SCHEDULE.
CHURCH SCHOOL 9:45; MORNING WORSHIP AT 11:00

"Fresh Oil!"

Text: Acts 10:35-38,

"In every nation any one who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him."
"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power."

This past summer as I was traveling down a country road, I came to a dirt side road that turned off to the left. At the entrance to this dirt road was a highway sign that said simply in large black letters, "FRESH OIL." I began to think how this fresh oil would convert this road from a road of dust and dirt, to a road that would still be useful, but not cause the problems it had caused before. I thought of cars riding down that road and how they had stirred up the dust, causing it to cover the trees, the leaves, the plants and weeds along the side, the roofs of the houses and ~~and~~ surrounding buildings. I thought of the people living in those houses and how they must dread tolerating that dust each year, until the state comes around and puts, "FRESH OIL," on the road.

IN THE BIBLE FRESH OIL WAS FOR ANOINTING. FOR SETTING ASIDE OR APART.

Then my mind began to turn toward what the Bible says about "FRESH OIL." So naturally when I got home I ~~looked it up~~. I read ~~in~~ I Samuel 16:13, "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward."

In II Samuel 2:4 we read, "And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah."

In II Samuel 5:3 we read, "So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and king David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel."

Now here we have three different occasions in which David is anointed with oil. Each occasion is a new experience for David, and on each occasion he is anointed with Fresh Oil. *EACH TIME HE IS SET APART.*

David mentions this twice in two of his Psalms. In the 23rd Psalm we read the very familiar, "Thou preparest a table before me in

the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil, me cup overflows." And in Psalm 92:10, David writes, "But Thou has exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; Thou hast poured over me fresh oil."

Now all of this has to do with the anointing of David with FRESH OIL, and all of this is found in the Old Testament. If we turn to the New Testament we find still another person being anointed with FRESH OIL. In the 10th chapter of Acts we read of Peter preaching to the Jews and Gentiles at Caesarea and he tells them, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with Power."

On the one hand we read of the anointing of a man to reign over a people as a ruling monarch. While on the other hand we read of a man being anointed with spiritual power to reign in the hearts and lives of people.

When we look about us in the world in which we live we cannot help but think that we have a need for FRESH OIL ~~in our land~~. A president of the United States wrote, (Illustration of Abraham Lincoln and proclamation for a day of prayer.)

If you were guessing that perhaps this was written by President Nixon you are wrong. It was written ~~for~~ 3 months after the Emancipation Proclamation, and 3 months before the battle of Gettysburg, by Abraham Lincoln on April 30, 1863. One hundred and ten years ago and yet it still has the same ring of truth in it.

As we look at our nation we cannot help but wonder where it all will end. We see the greed and avarice of public officials on all levels of government. We see the striving to do anything to gain control and power. I am firmly convinced that we have some officials in government who have sold out their allegiance to this nation, and are working for the downfall of our nation. I base my assumption on the record of appeasement and giveaway that has been established the past few years by our Congress. (Illustration of Jack Hyles and Cuban woman.)

Here is a graphic example of someone who has been in similar circumstances and she can see what we cannot ~~see~~, ^{PBRRHAPS} or, do not want to see. But there is hope, and all is not lost. But it requires that you and I ~~get busy~~ remain alert and get busy. Peter told the Jews and Gentiles of Caesarea, "In every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him." We must strive to overcome the paralysis of doing nothing that has crept into our nation. We must rise up and ~~put~~ ^{start putting} things in their proper perspective again. We must start this program in our nation, in our churches, and in our private families.

Too many people have been led to believe that many of our old ways of looking at ~~things~~ ~~of~~ our country are wrong. This has been brought about in a large measure by the flag burners, and anti-war demonstrators of the past few years. Anti-patriotism has been preached and taught throughout the length and breadth of the land. It has ~~even~~ ³ been preached from many pulpits.

A few weeks ago someone wrote a letter to Billy Graham whose column appears in the Harrisburg paper.

(Illustration of letter to Billy Graham)

Now what Mr. Graham is saying is that we are to love both God and country. Paul tells us that many of the powers that be are ordained by God. Now what both of them are saying and I agree with them, is that we are not to be blind believers that ~~and~~ ^{WHATEVER} our nation does is ^{ALWAYS} right. But what is being said is that we are to follow our leaders, but when things are corrupt and rotten we are to work within our system to rid it of evil, and sin, and corruption, and in this way we show our patriotism.

But when we look at our churches we can see that we do indeed ~~have~~ ^{need} for FRESH OIL there as well. I have been watching with more than passing interest, how the federal government has been slowly and methodically conducting investigations, into the affairs of the larger public ministries that are being carried on in our nation today. So far

they have investigated Billy Joe Hargis, Rex Humbard and Jerry Falwell. They still have several to go, among them Billy Graham. Now regardless of what you may think or feel about any of these men and their ministries the fact becomes rather evident when viewed in the proper light. ^{For} After these large scale ministries have been investigated and ~~public~~ made either to pay heavy taxation or readjust their ministries, then the government will start on the smaller ones, and the next smaller, and so on until they come to the little local church such as this one.

Now what I said about people in government selling out before applies in this situation as well. When the communists strive to take over a country they first attack its political system and then they attack the churches, and all of this is taking place today. Whenever any- or any organization one ~~who~~ ^{is} striving to do the will of God it is only a matter of time until Satan and his forces of evil ~~will~~ appear to attack these groups or organizations. And the prince of evil takes many forms, sometimes he appears in some of the nicest people.

We need to begin in our churches to fight these ^{satanic} ~~stark~~ forces with all the power that we can muster. We need to get back to being Bible believing Bible preaching churches. Perhaps the best way to start is for us to begin getting down on our knees more, and begin praying each day for the church as a whole, and for our individual congregations. Maybe in this way we could effect a start toward the defeat of these demons who would overthrow us.

^{BUT} We also need FRESH OIL in our private families.
(Illustration of Jack Hyles and now I lay me down to sleep.)

If we as parents and concerned Christians would strive to ^{in our families} place these values in our children, and in the lives of every child with whom we have contact, we could once again become a nation of people whose very lives are ruled by God.

Yes, we need FRESH OIL in all walks of life. We need it in

business, in industry, in the plant, in the office. We need it in our individual lives. We need it in our nation as a whole, in our churches, and in our families. We need Bible believing, and Bible speaking leaders in our government locally and nationally. We need Bible believing and Bible ~~speaking~~ preaching in our churches. We need Bible believing and Bible teaching parents in the homes throughout our nation. This book is the FRESH OIL that our nation, yea, the world needs. ~~Let us begin to get back to it.~~ IT IS TIME WE GOT BACK TO IT.

IN THE OFFICE WORKER, THE SHOP FOREMAN, THE GROWER, THE SALESMAN. IN ALL PEOPLE

"Fresh Oil!"

Text: Acts 10:35,38,
every

"In ~~any~~ nation any one who fears Him (God) and does what is right is acceptable to Him."

"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power."

(Road sign FRESH OIL. That how makes road cleaner, purer etc)

In I Samuel 16:13 we read, "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward."

Then in II Samuel 2:4 we read, "And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah."

And again we read in II Samuel 5:3, "So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and king David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel."

Now here we have three different occasions ~~in~~ which David is anointed with oil. Each occasion is a new experience for David, and on each occasion he is anointed with "Fresh Oil." ~~But~~ This is in the OT and if we turn ~~then~~ to the NT we find that yet another person was anointed with "Fresh Oil," from God. Peter is preaching ~~to~~ to the Jews and Gentiles in Caesarea in the 10th chapter of Acts, and he tells them, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power."

On the one hand we read of the anointing of a man to reign over a people as a ruling monarch. On the other hand we read of a man being anointed with ~~power~~ spiritual power to rule in the hearts and lives of people.

^{We}
~~As we~~ look at our nation as once again we celebrate another anniversary of our independence, ^{we} ~~one~~ cannot help but think that we have need of fresh oil in our land.

(Illustration of Lincoln's proclamation for a day of prayer)

This was written by one of our presidents and if you were guessing that it was written as a proclamation by President Nixon, you are wrong. It was written 3 months after the Emancipation Proclamation, and 3 months before the battle of Gettysburg, by Abraham Lincoln on

April 30, 1963. One hundred and ten years ago and yet it still has the same ring of truth to it. As we look at our nation we cannot help but wonder, where it all will end. We see the greed and avarice of public officials. We see the striving to do anything to gain power and control. I don't care what your political persuasion ^{MAY BE} ~~is~~, my opinion is that the whole Watergate mess is merely a means to discredit the president. He could not be beaten at the polls, and so he must be beaten by whatever means fair or foul. I see in this situation as I do in many others, the hand of those who would lead us down the path of Communism and ^{THE} ~~surrender~~ of all that we hold near and dear. I think that we need to be very careful who we put in office, for I believe very strongly that our ~~Congress~~ Senate and House of Representatives is infiltrated with Communists and Communist sympathizers. If you doubt this, look at the record of appeasement that has been established in the past 10 or 20 years.

(Illustration of Jack Hyles and Cuban woman on plane).

Here is a graphic example of ~~what~~ someone who has been in similar circumstances, ^{AND WHAT SHE/8} can see ~~that~~ we cannot. But there is hope my friends. All is not lost. But it requires that you and I remain alert and get busy. Peter told the Jews and Gentiles of Caesarea, "In ~~any~~ every nation any one who fears Him (God) and does what is right is acceptable to Him." We must strive to overcome the paralysis of doing nothing that has crept into our nation. We must rise up and start trying to put things back in their proper perspective. We must start this program in our ^{NATION} churches ^{CHURCHES} and in our ~~schools~~ and in our families.

Too many people have been led to believe that many of our old ways of looking at our country are wrong. This has been brought about in a large measure by the flag burners, and anti-war demonstrators of the past few years. Anti-patriotism has been preached and taught throughout the length and breadth of this land. Just the other day someone wrote what I took to be a sneering contemptuous jibe to Billy

Graham seeking to trap him. But he answered it very well. Perhaps some of you read it.

(Illustration of Billy Graham from newspaper of June 28, 1973, and his answer about patriotism and loyalty to God and country).

What Billy Graham is saying is that we are to love both God and country, ~~and to love~~ I think he is right. Look at what Paul states about the powers that be are actually ordained by God. Now, neither Mr. Graham nor I am stating that we are to be blind believers, ^{and} that ~~we~~ we love our country and all that it does whether it is right or wrong. But ~~it~~ I am saying that we must work within our country to rid it of evil and corruption and ~~by~~ by this we show our patriotism.

We also need to have fresh oil in our churches. This past week was ^{NOT ONLY} ~~not~~ one of spiritual inspiration for me, but one of enlightenment of our national church scene. I do not know whether you have ever heard of Billy Joe Hargis, but he is an evangelist, and for the past year or so has been under investigation by the government to make him pay taxes on what has been untaxable before. I am ~~also~~ sure that most of you are aware of the fight that Rex Humbard has been engaged in for the past 6 months or so. Well this week while I was ^{AT} the Thomas Road Baptist Church ^{FOR} ~~the~~ the Pastor's and Workers conference, it was disclosed by the pastor Dr. Jerry Falwell, that tomorrow morning he must appear in court with 2 million dollars to back up the ~~the~~ church bonds that have been sold to cover his radio, television and church ministry, or be placed into the hands of receivership.

For the past 6 months the people from the Securities and Exchange Commission have been going over all of their records. The bonds that were sold are not due to be paid off for 18 months. But the SEC is declaring that if the money is not available by tomorrow morning, then their ministry will be shut off.

There is another nationally known evangelist whose name skips me at the moment and he is next under investigation and then they

will be starting ~~an~~ an investigation of Billy Graham and his assets.

Now what all of this means, is that once they have broken down all of the large ministries, they will begin on the next largest, and then the next largest. Eventually they will be investigating churches the size of ours here in New Bloomfield and Duncannon. The handwriting is on the wall.

What I said about Communists before also applies in this situation. When the communists strive to take over a country, they first start with its political system, and then they attack the churches. Whenever anyone or any organization is striving to do the will of God, this causes Satan and his forces discomfort, and so it is only a matter of time until those groups or organizations are under attack by the prince of evil. *AND THE PRINCE OF EVIL TAKES MANY FORMS.*

We need to begin in our churches to seek to fight these satanic forces with all of the power that we can muster. Perhaps we can only begin with prayer, but if we would all unite in a common effort to pray each day for the church as a whole and for our individual congregations, we could effect a start toward the defeat of those demons who would overthrow us.

We also need Fresh Oil in our families.

(Illustration of Jack Hyles and Now I lay me down to sleep).

If we as parents and as concerned Christians, would strive to place these values in the lives of every young person ^{WITH HIM} ~~that~~ we have contact ~~with~~, we could once again have a nation of people whose very lives are ruled by God.

Yes, we need Fresh Oil in our nation, in our churches and in our families. We need Bible believing and Bible speaking leaders in our government locally and nationally. We need Bible believing and Bible preaching in our churches. We need Bible believing and Bible teaching parents in the homes throughout our nation. This book (the Bible) is the fresh oil that our nation, yea, our world needs. Let us begin to get back to it.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNA.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 2, 1973

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
DEACONESS ANN WILLIAMS, LITURGIST
PAM FRY, SHARI MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR WORSHIP 11.00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "BEHOLD, HE COMETH!" DEXTER
SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 95 "ARISE, THE KINGDOM IS AT HAND!"
*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US WHEN WE
COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU
IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DISOBEYED YOUR LAW.
WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS AS WE SHOULD.
FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE
YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*LAY READER: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 55!

SCRIPTURE LESSON: LUKE 1: 26-36

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN No. 88 "O COME, O COME EMMANUEL"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "MESSENGERS: HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "ROOM FOR THEE" WILSON

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "A JUDEAN LANDSCAPE"

BATISTE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 99 "REJOICE, REJOICE BELIEVERS"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE "SILVER TRUMPETS" DURAND

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
THE WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE TO THE "GLORY OF GOD".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *RAYMOND COVERT, JOHN
REDMAN, ROBERT KANUER AND CHARLES PENAR.

MR. & MRS. EARL WOGAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE
DOOR TODAY.

TONIGHT - 7:00 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - THE YOUTH ARE ASKED
TO BRING - SCISSORS, STAPLER, AND TO WEAR OLD CLOTHING.

MONDAY - 6:00 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE TUREEN DINNER
MEAT AND DESSERT WILL BE FURNISHED.

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. JOHN REDMAN, LAUREL
STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCBRIDE.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. GERTRUDE FRENCH, MRS. MARY YOUNG,
AND TOM RAIMONDI.

WE ARE GREATFUL TO HAVE OUR NEW PASTOR AND FAMILY WITH
US TODAY. THEY WILL BE MOVING HERE AROUND THE MIDDLE
OF THE MONTH.

THIS WEEK WAS REV. COOPER'S 77TH BIRTHDAY ON NOV. 28TH,
WE EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES TO REV. GRANVILLE COOPER -
AND MAY THERE BE MANY MORE.

IF YOU DESIRE TO HAVE A POINSETTA FOR THE ALTAR FOR
CHRISTMAS PLEASE GET YOUR ORDER IN RIGHT AWAY.

CALL BEA TAIT AT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR AT HOME.

AS USUAL THE BOOKS WILL CLOSE DECEMBER 31ST - ANYTHING
AFTER THAT DATE WILL BE CREDITED TO 1974.

OUR THANKS TO MRS. WOODROW WILLIAMS FOR SERVING AS
LITURGIST TODAY AND ALSO FOR ASSISTING WITH THE
SERVICE.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - SPONSORED BY THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION IS SCHEDULED FOR DEC. 16TH.
SANTA WILL BE HERE.

THE NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES WILL BE READY NEXT SUNDAY.
THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 225.

THE EPISTLE WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS COMING THURSDAY.
PLEASE HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY.

Anticipation: Who has not ~~xxxx~~ eagerly stood by the living room window, watching for the car that will bring Dad home from a business trip, or the children home from camping, or friends or relatives from miles away for a visit?

Who has not anticipated eagerly, and enthusiastically commencement, confirmation, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, or other important dates?

This is what Advent should be for us. An anticipation of the arrival of the messenger of God.

"Messengers: Heavenly and Earthly"

Text: Luke 1:26-36

In Shaw's play Saint Joan, Joan hears the voices of God. The ^{KING} ~~Duchin~~ is annoyed and he says, "Your voices, your voices! Why don't your voices come to me? I am the king not you." "They do come" ~~said~~ Joan, "but you do not hear them. You have not sat in the field in the evening listening to them. When the angelus rings you cross your-
self and have done with it, but if you prayed ^{from} ~~with~~ your heart and listened to the thrilling of the bells in the air after they stopped ringing, you would hear the voices as I do."

Joan gave herself the chance to hear the voice of God while the king did not. We find it very amusing when we hear or read or see portrayed the typical Irishman talking to Leprechauns, the little people. Many years ago around the turn of the century a woman named Virginia O'Hanlon wrote to a newspaper to inquire if there was a Santa Claus. Part of the naswer that ~~was~~ appeared in the paper stated, "The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there." Have we ever seen or heard angels? Of course not, but yet this is what we are told Mary saw, heard and talked to. Is it anymore fantastic to believe in angels, than to believe in a God that we cannot see?

We cannot pass off angèls or stories such as our Scripture this morning as mere means of speaking to people in a certain age and not applying to us in scientific 1972³. This type of reasoning is merely a cop-out to evade the issue. We need rather, to look at angels and determine what we can about them from the information available.

Angels are mentioned about 300 times in the Bible. Belief in angels seems to go hand in hand with faith in the Bible. The identity of these beings is ~~known~~ shrouded in mystery, yet there is ^a considerable

amount of data available about them in the bible. The first description
of an angel in the Bible is found in Genesis 16:7, where an angel ap-
pears to Hagar, Sarah's maid and tells her to return to Sarah. The last
reference is found in Revelation 22:16, ~~here~~ The text says, "I Jesus
have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the
root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star." ~~In both of~~
~~these texts~~ **17** is rather significant that at the very beginning of the
 Bible, an angel is carrying the message from God, and in the closing
 chapter of Scripture he is doing the same thing: carrying a message
 from Christ. God in the flesh.

When God was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah he sent
 his angels to warn Lot and his daughters and to lead them to safety.
 When Daniel was in the lions den, he was protected by an angel. When
 Peter was in prison, it was an angel who came to ~~him~~ deliver him. ~~There~~
~~we have these examples as evidence of God's heavenly messengers. There~~
~~are still other stories of angels and mention made of them in other~~
~~portions of Scripture.~~ There was the visit of the angel to ~~Zechariah~~
 him ~~Zechariah~~ Zechariah to tell him of ~~THE~~ ^{to} blessing God had bestowed upon ~~him~~ by
 her pregnancy with John the Baptist. There was the appearance of the angel
 to the shepherds to ~~let~~ tell them of the birth of Jesus. There was the
 appearance to the wise men in a dream to tell them ~~to~~ ^{to} not return to
 Herod after their visit to the Christchild. There was the visit of the
 angel to Joseph in a dream to tell him to take his family and flee to
 Egypt. There are other stories of angels to be found in the Bible, but
 mostly we can see in just the nativity story alone, the overwhelming
 amount of detail concerned with the messengers of God.

We cannot fathom just what these supernatural beings
 are, all we can say is that they are sent from God to carry his message
to mankind. We cannot prove them, nor can we disprove them, but we
certainly cannot ignore them, simply because of their numerous appear-
ances in Scripture. Here again we are faced with a phenomena that must

be accepted by faith.

~~For the angels were~~ The angels were God's messengers. They were the heavenly messengers, but are there not earthly messengers? ^{AS WELL?} Didn't God show Himself in the lives of men such as Moses, David, Samuel, Elisha, Elijah, Joshua, Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Ezekiel, the Apostle Paul, John the Baptist, Peter and even Jesus? But too often we become so wrapped up in the messenger, we omit or neglect the message. People came to John the Baptist and asked him if he was the Messiah, or if he was Elias or another prophet. His reply seemed to be, "You have taken me for the Messiah, or Elias or someone else, but I am none of these. I am only a voice. Never mind me, my dress, my personality, my manner, forget all of that and listen to my voice. That is the important thing because in that voice is a message for you, and in that message is to be found the Messiah."

John the Baptist was only one of the ~~many~~ earthly messengers sent by God. There have been countless others in all walks of life, since that baby was foretold by a heavenly herald. As I stood looking at the very beautiful paintings of Vincent Van Gogh in the ^{IN PARIS} Museum de Jan de paume, I was overwhelmed by the intense ~~beauty~~ beauty he had captured on the canvas. There before my eyes in vivid oranges and greens and reds and blues, were scenes that took on a very lifelike realism. ^{They had been painted by} ~~He was~~ a man who for the first time in the field of art, used colors that had never been used before, ~~in painting~~. I remember reading his life story and recalling that when he ran out of ^{THE} a vivid red, he would sometimes use his own blood to make the color he needed. Here was a man whose paintings had a message to tell. I thought of other men who also had a message for the world. Men like Shakespeare who enriched the world with his pen, or Michelangelo who spoke through sculpture and painting. ^{OTHER MEN SUCH AS} ~~He was not alone~~ Raphael, Rembrandt, Degas, Monet and other painters who spoke through ^{THEIR} canvases. ^{WHOSE PAINTINGS I ALSO SAW.}

Each of these individuals were messengers, but the messenger has since gone and what is left is the message. Their lives are ended but their voice lingers on in their work. You and I ~~are~~ are messengers as well. What we say and what we do speaks of our Christianity or lack of it. How we conduct ourselves outside of our church tells the world where we stand and what we believe. The hymn writer tells us, "Go tell it on the mountains, over the hills and everywhere, Go tell it on the mountains that Jesus Christ is born."

The message was brought by heavenly messengers to earthly men and women, but the message does not end there. It is a message that must be carried by earthly messengers to others. We are the earthly messengers of God and this is what the Advent of Jesus Christ is all about. How can we possibly hear once again the words of the heavenly messengers, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord" and keep it quiet? How can we possibly refrain from rushing out into the streets and telling any and everyone we meet the "Good News which shall be to all people."? This is what Advent should do to us and for us. We should be overcome with the spirit of giving the message and sharing the message. But alas the message becomes entangled ~~we~~ with hustle and bustle, with hurry and haste, with the thoughts of gifts to buy and wrap, and of how many more things we must get done before Christmas Day.

Perhaps there is still hope, there is still hope that is if we are willing to forgo much of the fuss and ~~fury~~ ^{FRENZY} of the season and lend ourselves to the giving and the spreading of the message. ~~Our cry must be, "Come O come Emmanuel and rescue captive Christians whose message is lost"~~ May we hear the heavenly messengers still singing through the turmoil, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," Glory to God in the Highest, the advent of our King is here.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 9, 1973

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
ELDER CHESTER STAUFFER, LITURGIST
PAM FRY, SHARI McBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

- PRELUDE: "ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY" WILSON
SILENT PRAYER
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 91 "WATCHMAN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT"
*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN
*EXHORTATION
*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "HOW READY ARE OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE
THY SON. HOW READY ARE WE TO HEAR HIS MESSAGE. AND ONCE
HEARD, HOW READY TO OBEY. HOW READY ARE WE, TO KEEP OUR
FAMILY IN CHRIST'S NAME, AND TO SERVE HIM WITH OUR ALL.
HOW READY ARE WE TO LOVE OUR GOD, AND OUR NEIGHBOR NEAR AND
FAR. HOW READY ARE WE TO SUFFER TOO, AS HE CAME AND SUFFERED
FOR US. WHERE WE ARE NOT READY FORGIVE US GOD - AND MAKE US
READY NOW. AMEN."
*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)
*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN
*PRAISE
*LAY READER: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.
*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.
*DOXOLOGY No. 551
SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 2: 1-12; LUKE 2: 8-18
LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE
HYMN No. 94 "THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS CRYING"
ORGAN MEDITATION
SERMON: "VISITORS: KINGLY AND COMMON!"
PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER
*GLORIA PATRI
*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)
ANTHEM: "THE GUIDING STAR" WILSON WOMEN'S CHORUS
SOPRANO SOLO, CYNDIE SYBERT
*CALL TO PRAYER
*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.
*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.
*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

- OFFERING
OFFERTORY "THE SHEPHERD'S VISION" NOLTE
*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 89 "COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED
*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN JESUS"
ORGAN POSTLUDE "LO! WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR" RASLEY
----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----
THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
ANNETTA AND ARTHUR SNYDER IN MEMORY OF HUSBAND AND
FATHER - CHARLES W. SNYDER.
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE *MONT MACKINNEY, STEVE VARGO,
WALLY FEDER AND JOHN SNOW.
ELDER ROBERT TAIT WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR.
FRI. - 6:00 - THE ARC CLASS WILL HAVE A FAMILY TUREEN.
BRING TABLE SERVICE AND TUREEN - BEVERAGE AND DESSERT
WILL BE FURNISHED - AFTER DINNER THE CHRISTMAS TREES
WILL BE SET UP.
NEXT SUNDAY AT 7:00 - CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WILL
BE HELD IN THE UNDERCROFT - EVELYN KENNEDY WILL HAVE
CHARGE OF THE KITCHEN. THE YOUTH WILL HELP SERVE AND
WE HEAR THAT SANTA WILL BE HERE.
HOSPITALIZED: MRS. WINIFRED JOHNSTON, MRS. GRETRUDE
FRENCH AND TOM RAIMONDI. MRS. MARY YOUNG IS IN THE
SUTTLE NURING HOME, R. D. #3, PARKER, PA.
NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. BARBARA VARGO AND
KAREN KENNEDY.
THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 217.
IF ENOUGH INTEREST IS SHOWN IN A JUNIOR CHOIR FOR BOYS
AND GIRLS - THE COUNCIL HAS AUTHORIZED ONE. PLEASE
LEAVE BEA TAIT KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED - JRS. UP.
THE BASKETBALL SEASON IS HERE AND CHUCK McWILLIAMS
IS READY. A PAPER IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE
NARTHEX TO SIGN UP, OR CALL CHUCK OR BEA TAIT.
THE ORGAN DONATED BY THE CHILDREN OF THE LATE HELEN
McGREGOR WILL BE PICKED UP MONDAY NIGHT BY JAMES
McCLYMONDS AND HIS HELPERS IN MT. VERNON. THE ORGAN
WILL BE USED IN THE UNDERCROFT.
ANYONE DESIRING THE OLD PIANOS (3) PLEASE LET BEA TAIT
KNOW - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.
PLASTIC LIDS FROM MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE CANS ARE BEING
COLLECTED IN THE NARTHEX (ANY SIZE). THEY WILL BE
USED TO OBTAIN A 30 CUP COFFEE POT FOR THE KITCHEN.
NEW FLOWER CHART IS UP - MAKE YOUR SELECTIONS /soon.

"Visitors: Kingly & Common!"

Text: Matthew 2:1b-² "Behold wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him.'"

Luke 2:8-9 "And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear."

A certain amount of glamor is always cast upon the story of the nativity by the appearance of the Wise Men. We think of these men riding ~~up~~ in regal splendour to the crude and humble stable in which Jesus was born, and we can see them dressed in their costly robes, and bringing their costly gifts. Biblical scholars and students of the Bible get bogged down in the mechanics of the story. They argue the number of Wise Men. They question the appearance of the star and which one. They make light of the fact that the men could not have possibly seen a star in the East and traveled there in time to get to Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus, and so they must have arrived much later in time. But in all of this questioning, rarely if ever, does anyone ask, Why were they there? Why of all people, were these men the ones to come to see this baby? Why indeed were they chosen of God to come and pay homage to an infant King?

Well we could say that they were of royalty and it was customary for royalty to pay their respects to other royalty. We could say that they were the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy and it was necessary for them to be there. But with each of these answers we find there is something being left unaid. That something is that they were not only royalty, and not only fulfilling an ancient prophecy, but they were following directly, what to them was a mission given to them by ~~God~~ no less than God Himself. They were willing to journey far to obey the orders of God.

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE - CAROL.
RECEIVED BY READ OF THIS & SOMETHING WARM - WERE NOT KINGS, NOT 3, NOT
FROM ORIENT. 2

Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar,
These are they who followed the star.

Myrrh, and incense, gems of gold,
These are the gifts they brought of old.

These are the precious, wonderful things
They brought, as befitting three wise kings.
--From The Gift, by Laura Spencer Porter

This is how they have been interpreted by most people.

But they were more than kings, more than wise men, they were men who
were couragous, and who left the warmth and security of their kingdoms
to journey into an unknown adventure. ~~They were men of courage who~~
~~believed and followed a heavenly vision.~~ When they prepared themselves
for travel they pitted themselves against the winds and the dangers
of the desert. They were men of courage who believed and followed a
heavenly vision. Such is the courage that is ever called upon to be
a follower of the King Jesus Christ. These men looked to the heavens
and saw there ~~as the psalmist~~ so aptly put it
"The heavens declare the Glory of God."

(ILLUS. OF T. S. ELIOT POEM)
THEY WERE CHANGING In the Gospel of Matthew is recorded in just a few short
verses, all that we actually know about these kingly visitors. But
~~they and their story~~ their story is one in which once again God
has done the unique, for He has shown that even royalty came to pay
their respects to this baby.

But along with these visitors of high station, he also
called forth some individuals of lesser station. Now contrary to the
story of the Wise Men, these shepherds did not have far to travel to
pay homage to this king. They were a familiar sight in and around
Bethlehem. High above the town itself on the hillsides, these men
were tending their sheep. The night was passed sometimes with one
man in charge while the others slept and sometimes with several men
in charge. They would sit around the open fire and listen and tell
stories to each other that had probably been passed on from one gen-
eration to another. Occasionally the sheep would stir and they would

check the sheep to see if there was trouble and then return to the warmth of the fire. But to some of these common men the Lord God was revealed. To them angels appeared to tell them of the glorious birth right in their own hometown. How many times they probably had sat around the fire, daydreaming of the travels they would like to make, and how it would be to travel the trade routes as some of the merchants they knew. But to them now, right at this special moment, they were told the wonderful news that "To you is born this day in this city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." And here was their chance to see something first hand. It did not require a long journey but happened right here in this town.

were

Here were men who just about like what we call laborers today. Common men in other words and yet to them was revealed what many were looking for, but were not told. To them and their very own town, fell the responsibility of housing this Savior. An ordinary night, took on significance and life itself became different. The unexpected happened and almost right on top of them. Their lives were different because of this event, and somehow life ~~was~~ would never be the same again. JUST AS IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT FOR THE MAGI

But doesn't God always act in the most unexpected ways? Isn't it always at a time and place that is out of the ordinary? Isn't it always in the life or lives of those who are different in some way? First it was the Wise Men ~~who~~ to whom Jesus was revealed. Then it was to the shepherds that He was revealed. In other words it was a visitation to the kingly and the common. It was the kingly and the common who came and paid homage to the infant King.

In Ezekiel 17:24 we read, "And all the trees of the field shall know that I the Lord bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish." And Mary in her song of acceptance of what God was going to

ISA. 40:

do through her sang, "He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
and exalted those of low degree." Here are two examples given of
 how God operates. He makes the low tree high and the high tree low.
 He topples the mighty and exalts the lowly. He reveals himself not only
 in the common things but also in the things of royalty. His Son made
 his home with those of low estate, but at the same time was on a ^{plane} ~~xxx~~
far above any royalty. He entered our world as each of us has come,
 as a weak and helpless child. He could have come with thousands of
 angels heralding his arrival with trumpets of gold. He could have
 come with all of the fanfare of any king or prince. But he came:

To be Himself a star most bright
 To bring the wisemen to His sight,
 To be Himself a voice most sweet
 To call the shepherds to His feet,
 To be a child--it was His will,
 That folks like us might find Him still.

~From "Childhood" by John Erskine

Jesus came and was visited by ~~royalty~~ kingly and common
 visitors. Let us this Advent season join with yonder sacred throng
 and crown Him Lord of All. O come let us adore Him, Christ ^{our} ~~the~~ Lord.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Ralph C. Link, Pastor
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
 Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP December 17, 1972

The Organ Prelude
 *The Hymn of Praise 118
 *The Call to Worship
 *The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
 O God of hope and love who dost wait for us even when we forget thee; O God of truth and peace who dost prepare a revelation for us even when we cannot comprehend thee; O God of grace and mercy who doth call us to respond to thee even when we wander from thee, we confess, we are confused by being so busy, we confess, we are too much involved in preparations, we confess, we are tired of man made schedules, we confess, we tend to forget thee in our celebration, forgive us, forgive us O God. Amen.
 *The Kyrie
 *The Assurance of Pardon
 The Scripture----Luke 2:1-7 Matthew 2:13-15
 *The Gloria Patri
 The Anthem (Trinity)
 The Pastoral Prayer
 The Choral Response (Trinity)
 The Announcements
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
 *The Doxology
 *The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
 The Hymn of Meditation 102
 The Lighting of the Advent Wreath
 The Sermon----"Travelers: Secular & Holy!"
 The Sermon Prayer
 *The Hymn of Response 107
 *The Benediction
 *The Threefold Amen
 *The Postlude

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Youth Meeting until after Christmas and New Year's day.

No Bible Study until after Christmas and New Year's Day.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRACTICE FOR S.S. FOR PROGRAM
 Tonight we will have our Christmas Candlelight Service at 7:30 PM. The youth of the church have prepared this service and invite all of us to worship with them.

Mrs. Elizabeth Darlington is in Room 410 of the Polyclinic Hospital.

Mrs. Emma Boggs is in the Carlisle Hospital Room 143.

Next Sunday Dec. 24th at 10:45 PM we will share in a joint Christmas Eve Service with the Christ Lutheran Church. Your Pastor will be the guest speaker. This will be a festive service of carols, candlelighting, and Holy Communion. "Come Let Us Adore Him" in joy and fellowship next Sunday night.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon at 3:00 PM we are going to trim the tree in the church. Come out & give us a hand.

Next Sunday during the regular worship service, the children will take part in the worship service.

Next Sunday Dec. 24th at 7:30 PM we will once again have our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

VILITERS

IF ANY ONE WANTS TO SET PLANTS

"Travelers: Secular and Holy!"

Text: Luke 2:4-7 "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

"Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays" one of the newer ^{POPULAR} Christmas songs tells us. We read and we hear much about people traveling to ~~xxxx~~ and from different points of the country at this time of the year. The trains and planes are jammed to capacity. The terminals overflow with people milling about, and going off in all directions. It appears as though all the world is bent upon getting ~~to~~ back home for this festive holiday. I can look back with a sigh of relief to a time when I had to leave my home and my loved ones and travel to Seattle where I knew ~~xxxxxx~~ no one. On the long train ride, ~~but~~ I talked to many people and they all seemed to bubble over with enthusiasm and joy that they were returning home. Most of them sympathized with me and sincerely showed a feeling of regret that I could not do ^{AS THEY WERE DOING,} likewise.

~~But~~ When we think of travelers at this time of year we naturally think of the wise men coming to Bethlehem for this birth that took place there, but we so often overlook that there were other travelers as well. Mary and Joseph were travelers in this story. They were required to make this long journey to fulfill the requirements of the law. Here was Mary, pregnant with Jesus and expecting Him very, very shortly and she had to travel this long hard dusty journey to Bethlehem. It must have been a very uncomfortable trip to say the very least. It probably meant sleeping on the ground at night, and riding uphill and down on the back of a slow plodding uncomfortable donkey. Supposing she had fallen from the back of the animal! Supposing the donkey had slipped and fallen! She could have been killed or seriously injured. But surely God must have been with her. When one thinks of

the relative ease with which the wise men must have traveled, one cannot help marvel at the courage and fortitude it must have taken for Mary to make the trip.

But even when she arrived in Bethlehem, tired and dirty and dusty, even then she had to face hardship. They had reached the end of their journey and now they could not even find a decent place in which to sleep. And to top it all off, the expected was about to happen, and even now as this new life stirred within her, she had to share a ~~stable with~~ dirty stable in the company of domestic animals. There in the bleak surroundings she gave birth to her son. ^{AND} ~~Then~~ very shortly thereafter she and her husband and baby had to take to the road once again, and flee to Egypt. More, dust and dirt and grime from the road. More tired hot days and long uncomfortable nights trying to sleep upon the ground. But she and her family endured it.

When we talk about Mary and Joseph we are talking about secular travelers. In other words people who are in the world, common ordinary people. But when they traveled both to Bethlehem and to Egypt, they were accompanied by a Holy traveler. Although ~~on~~ the first journey he had not yet ^{MADE HIS APPEARANCE} ~~been seen~~, nevertheless, he was still very much a part of it. After all didn't the angel tell Mary that the baby to be born was Holy? Was not Joseph also told of this Holy child? So when we talk of the travelers we cannot overlook that there ^{was a} ~~was~~ also a Holy traveler as well.

In the life of Jesus that we find recorded in the Gospels we read that quite often one of the secular travelers from that first journey is involved with him, and that was Mary. We read about her in the temple looking for Jesus. We read of her at the marriage feast in Cana. We read of her standing at the cross of her dying son. And last of all we read of her in the Upper Room where she prays with those who believe in Him. In all of these travelings Mary always remains the secular traveler. We do not think of her as being Holy, but only as the wonderful mother of Jesus.

Now what all of this proves is the fact that in each of our lives we travel the secular road. We are all secular people and are involved in the world. But into our lives each year at this time, we too are traveling with the Holy. We meet once again that event that lifts our lives from the secular into the realm of the things of God. We are once again made aware that there was and is an event in which God came to earth in the form of a child.

~~In the year 1809~~ the Christmas always begins with a baby. In Canada's dense woods worked a crew of men cutting trees away from all civilization. They decided to organize a celebration and made arrangements to have their wives brought to the camp. Among the wives, came one who had a very small baby. When the band started to play it startled the baby and he began to cry. A rough, tough old woodsman jumped up and shouted, "Stop the band so we can hear the baby cry."

As long as we have babies and there are babies born, the world has hope. In 1809 the world was in very bleak and dismal times. A ruthless dictator stood on the brink of conquering the world and there was little hope in anyone's heart. But on a February day of that year a traveler walked into a country store in the mountains of Kentucky and asked, "Anything new happen around here lately?" "Nope", someone replied, "Nothing ever happens around here." "There was a baby born up at the Lincoln cabin last night -- that's all." That was one of the most important births recorded in our country. In that same year Gladstone and Darwin were born. Tennyson and Edgar Allen Poe. Cyrus ~~and~~ McCormick and Mendelssohn also. It is never known what will be the outcome when a baby is born.

THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DUKKEY SHOW THE LOVE OF G.P.

A minster named Wagner once told of talking to a little girl whose parents were separated. He asked her, "Doesn't your Dad ever come to see you?" She replied, "No." But then her face brightened and she answered, "Except at Christmas. Every Christmas he comes." On that day the little

girl had a loving father. And isn't this the way with each of us. If at no other time of the year we are aware of it, we cannot help but be made aware that at Christmas time we have a loving Father. He makes Himself known to those who come to Him that He is with them in the form of His Only Son Jesus Christ. Life takes on a new meaning at this time of the year, because of the coming of a small little baby, named Jesus.

THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS JOURNEY IS ALSO A TIME OF GIVING AS WELL AS RECEIVING. GREAT

Edwin Markham wrote a story called "How the Guest Came," in which a man seeks to meet Christ. One night in a dream he dreamed that Christ would come to his shoe shop the next day. Early the next morning the old cobbler went to the woods to get greens to decorate his shop for the coming of Christ. All morning long he waited, but the only one who came in was an old man who asked if he could sit down and rest. Conrad ^{THE COBLER} saw that his shoes were worn, so before the old man left his shop he fitted him into one of the best pairs of shoes ^{HE HAD MADE} in the shop.

Throughout the afternoon he waited, but only an old woman came by who struggled under a heavy load. Out of compassion he brought her into his shop and gave her some food which he had prepared for Christ. And so she went on her way refreshed. Just as it was getting dark a lost child entered his shop. Conrad carried the child home and hurried back to the shop lest he miss Christ. He waited and waited until at last in utter frustration he cried, "Why is it Lord, that your feet delay? Did you forget that this was the day?"

Then soft in the silence a voice he heard: "Lift up your heart for I kept my word."

Three times I came to your friendly door: Three times my ~~had~~ shadow was on your floor.

I was the beggar with bruised feet; I was the woman you gave to eat; I was the child on the homeless street!"

So often we look for the Christ-child in a certain ~~place~~ place when all the time he is right there before us in the ~~life~~ lives of our fellow

~~xxx~~ secular travelers.

JOURNEY
BUT OUR CHRISTMAS & ADVENTA SHOULD CHANGE ATTITUDES AS WELL

A minister from the Midwest told of a woman who came to him and asked for prayer. She said, "I have a bad limp and the doctors said there is nothing they can do for me.." He told her he would pray with her and for her. They prayed several times, but still she limped. One day in a conversation with this minister she revealed that she held ill-will in her heart against another woman. She said she felt in her heart she should go to that woman in a spirit of love but she hesitated. Yet she said that as she prayed to get close to Christ, it seemed as though this ill-will was holding back the health and happiness she could have. Finally after much prayer and thought about it she went to the woman and made amends, and it wasn't too long after that incident that she was walking without a limp.

At Christmas time we long to be close to Christ. We find that we are ashamed of our wrongs and the very season inspires us to change. When we do what we should we get what we call "The Christmas Spirit." But we can have this "Spirit" all through the year if we would only strive to live all year as this season inspires us now to live.

Ebenezer Scrooge in Dickens Christmas Carol, found that one thing he really lacked, *AND THAT* [^] was the help and assistance he could lend to humanity. This is ~~xxxx~~ what the Holy child taught and teaches us. So as we travel in the secular and come once again to the realm of the Holy, let us set our lives in their proper perspectives and seek to hold onto this festive spirit of love that is in our hearts. Let us truly join in the glad song of Joy to The World, Our Lord and King has indeed come."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice
before the Lord, for He comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness, and the
peoples with His truth.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 23, 1973

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS - ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
ELDER CHESTER STAUFFER - LITURGIST
RODIE VINROE, CHRIS CAMPBELL - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR 8:30 COMMUNION

PRELUDE MUSIC: "CHRISTMAS PRELUDE" DECKER
"CHIMES AT CHRISTMAS" RITTER

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 120 "Joy To The World"

*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION - No. 1, Page 4

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION, PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (CHORAL AMEN)

*PRAISE

*PASTOR - O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE - AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY - No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ISAIAH 9: 2-7

HYMN No. 102 "HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "WHO AND WHAT IS THIS JESUS?"

*GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "BETHLEHEM" BY WILSON CHOIR AND GIRLS CHORUS

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR - THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE - AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR - LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "THOU ART MY SHEPHERD" HEYWARD

CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *INSTITUTION *AGNUS DEI

THE HOLY COMMUNION (USHERS WILL ESCORT YOU TO THE ALTAR)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - CHORAL AMEN

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 107 "IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

*GOSPEL "IN EXCELSIS DEO" ELLIS

It is not necessary to kneel if you cannot do so.

ORDER FOR 11:00 COMMUNION

PRELUDE MUSIC: "CHRISTMAS PRELUDE" DECKER
"CHIMES AT CHRISTMAS" RITTER

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 120 "Joy To The World"

*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

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*PEOPLE - AND MY MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

*DOXOLOGY - No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ISAIAH 9: 2-7

LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLES

HYMN No. 102 "HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "WHO AND WHAT IS THIS JESUS?"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "BETHLEHEM" BY WILSON CHOIR AND GIRLS CHORUS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "THOU ART MY SHEPHERD" HEYWARD

CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *INSTITUTION *AGNUS DEI

HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS AND COMMUNE

WITH PASTOR)

*PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING - CHORAL AMEN

HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 107 "IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT
CLEAR"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

*POSTLUDE: "IN EXCELSIS DEO" ELLIS

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

WE INVITE ALL CHRISTIANS REGARDLESS OF DENOMINATION,

TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH US.

THE ELDERS AND DEACONS WILL SERVE AS USHERS TODAY

DURING THE COMMUNION SERVICES.

WE WISH TO THANK ELDER CHESTER STAUFFER FOR SERVING

AS LITURGIST AND ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE.

DEACON AND MRS. CHARLES PENAR WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL

AT THE DOOR TODAY.

~~Point Service at Beth...~~
AND WHAT

"Who Is This Jesus?"

SCRIPTURE ISAIAH 9:2-7

When Jesus was born we read of King Herod inquiring as to who he was and where he was born so that he could go and worship him. When Jesus began to preach publicly people began to question who he was. "Who is this fellow who speaks with such authority and conviction," they must have asked. When Nathaniel was told by Philip about Jesus, he made the classic remark, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" He was really saying, "Who is this Jesus? Since he is from Nazareth, could he really amount to anything?"

When Jesus ~~was healing people~~ healed the paralytic man who was lowered on his bed through the roof of a building or house, the scribes and the pharisees asked, "Who is this, ~~who~~ ^{WHO} is capable of healing?" When Jesus was eating at the home of Simon the pharisee and he forgave the ~~many~~ sins of the woman who anointed and kissed his feet, ~~some~~ others at the table asked, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"

When questioning arose as to who Jesus was and some thought him to be John the baptist raised from the dead, even Herod asked, "Who is this about whom I hear such things?" When Jesus was crucified people asked "who is this?" THE CENTURION SAID "TRULY, THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD, ALWAYS"

The natural question about him was ~~naturally~~, "Who is He?" Matthew goes through an elaborate genealogy at the start of his book to not only show that Jesus was descended from the royal line of David, but to show to all who are interested, his pedigree. To prove just WHO He IS.

There has been much written in the way of poetry, and music and theology about Jesus. When we think of Him we think of His birth and how it came about. We think of how that night must have been something just a little out of the ordinary. For here was a child born in a stable approximately 85 miles from his hometown, and yet people, strangers, came to see the child and made special efforts to be there. ~~Because~~

We think of a mother sitting quietly by a manger in a stable, ~~and~~ We hear a baby cry, and the cry sounds like ~~all babies~~ that of all babies. But of course along with this we must add that there were angels who appeared to these people and so the birth took on an air of mystery.

We think of a boy romping and playing in the little town of Nazareth. He goes to school and plays with the other children of the village. He begins to work with his hands and to learn the craftsmanship in his Father's carpenter shop. We think of Him as a young man working in that same shop to support his mother and his brothers and sisters.

We think of Him as a man of thirty going about preaching and helping people. We can picture how he is able to communicate with the common people, and how he is able to interpret the will of God in a new and different light. He tells them of the love of God for all mankind and that the ~~real~~ real purpose of life is not the ~~ful~~ strict fulfillment of the law, ~~but that~~ but that men must come to know God and acknowledge their responsibilities to God and their fellowmen. We can almost see the crowds gathered around him waiting for his very next word, because he speaks to them, "As one who has authority."

We think of Him standing before His accusers as a sheep before its shears is dumb. He patiently endures the hatred, the torment and the abuse heaped upon him by those who hate the very sight of him. We think of him enduring the agony of being nailed to that cross and finally we picture him as being taken down and laid in the tomb of a friend.

One by one these scenes flash before our eyes, and we find that we do indeed know a tremendous amount about this Jesus. We know a lot less about many other people who lived at this time, for we find our knowledge about Caesar who ruled the world at this time is very limited. We find we do not know much about Pilate except what is contained in the Gospel. We do not know who the most prominent and successful men were.

We do not know who was the wealthiest man, nor do we have a list of the ~~social~~ socially prominent people of the day. But we find we know an awful lot about Jesus, and our knowledge ~~for~~ about Him makes us strangely warm inside. He makes us aware that we are sinners, but yet He loves us. He makes us feel a love toward others that makes us feel good when we help them.

Jesus Himself once asked his disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" He wanted to know what people thought about him and who he really was. Many people know about Jesus and can ~~tell~~ give many facts about his life. ~~But they only know Him as Jesus, and so they argue about Him~~ They know that he is a character in a book somewhere, and that is about the extent of their knowledge. So the question then becomes not only, "Who Is this Jesus?", but "What Is HE?" The answer contains several parts.

~~First:~~ Jesus birth was different from all others. An angel appeared to a young woman and told her that she would give birth to the Son of the Highest. She was troubled about this and so she asked, "BUT how can this be since I have no husband?" And the angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you therefore the child to be born will be called Holy, the Son of God." His birth then was of God, and He was Divine.

~~Second:~~ During his life on earth he had supernatural or unexplainable powers. The winds and the waves obeyed him. He was able to heal people of their sicknesses and diseases. He was able to bring comfort and hope into the lives of the discouraged and disillusioned. With a small boy's lunch he was able to feed a large crowd. He was able to forgive people of their sins. Nicodemus said, "Rabbi we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him." The power that He gave to men is still available to those who believe in Him.

~~Third:~~ His death on the cross is our doorway into Heaven.

That cross became the altar upon which was offered up the sacrifice of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He took upon himself the sins of all mankind, all who had gone before, all who were then living, and all those yet unborn, which means you and me, ^{for all,} ~~and~~ He suffered and died. ~~for all of these sins.~~ His death became the atonement or the forgiveness for the sins of all mankind.

That Friday became for His disciples "Black Friday" because their leader was slain. But as Paul states, "God was in ~~the world~~ Christ reconciling the world to Himself," & It was later that His disciples and his followers saw the cross not as God's desertion of mankind, but as "Good Friday" and of God's saving power through Christ.

~~Fourth:~~ Christ rose from the dead and thereby opened to all mankind the possibility for eternal life. "Because I live you will live also," He said. It is through His resurrection we learn the power of endless life.

So ~~what~~ is Jesus? He is the CHRIST, the anointed one, the Messiah, the chosen of God to deliver His people from their sins.

"Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Richard Watson Gilder wrote a poem entitled "The Song of a Heathen Sojourning in Galilee, A.D. 32," in which he sums it all so very beautifully.

"If Jesus Christ is a God --

And the ~~only~~ God ---- I swear I will follow him through heaven

And Hell, The earth, the sea, the air!"

"Joy to the World, The LORD has come." Amen.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
 CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE DECEMBER 24, 1973
 MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
 MRS. VELMA COLLINS - ORGANIST
 MR. RALPH COOPER - CHOIR DIRECTOR
 ELDER ROBERT TAIT - LITURGIST
 RONNIE VINROE, CHRIS CAMPBELL - ACOLYTES

 11:00 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 PRELUDE MUSIC: "HE SHALL FEED HIS FLOCK" HANDEL
 "O HOLY NIGHT" ADAM
 "HEAVENLY LIGHT" SCHUBERT

SILENT PRAYER
 *PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 112 "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL"
 *ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN
 *EXHORTATION
 *CONFESSION No. 1, PAGE 4
 *KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION, PASTOR)
 *ASSURANCE OF PARDON (CHORAL AMEN)
 *FRAISE
 *LAY READER - O LORD, OPEN THOU MY LIPS
 *PEOPLE - AND MY MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY FRAISE
 *DOXOLOGY - No. 551
 SCRIPTURE LESSON: LUKE 2: 1-20
 LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLES
 HYMN No. 108 "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"
 ORGAN MEDITATION
 CHRISTMAS MONOLOGUE: "SAM'S SONG"
 PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER
 *GLORIA PATRI
 *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)
 ANTHEM: "THE MIDNIGHT CHOIR" BY WILSON - CHOIR AND
 GIRLS CHORUS, SOLO - VON MALONEY
 OFFERING
 OFFERTORY "SOFTLY O'ER THE MANGER" RAND
 CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32
 *EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *INSTITUTION *AGNUS DEI
 HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS AND COMMUNE
 WITH PASTOR)
 *PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING - CHORAL AMEN
 CANDLE LIGHTING
 *HYMN OF DE VOTION No. 101 "SILENT NIGHT"

ANTHEM: "HALLELUJAH CHORUS" BY WILSON - CHOIR AND
 GIRLS CHORUS)

*BENEDICTION AND AMENS ON CHIMES
 *POSTLUDE: "GLORIA EXCELSIS" KOHLMAN

 *CONGREGATION STANDING -----
 WE INVITE ALL CHRISTIANS REGARDLESS OF DENOMINATION,
 TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH US.
 WHEN RECEIVING THE LIGHT, TILT UNLIT CANDLES TOWARD
 THE ONE THAT IS ALREADY LIT.
 ST. PAUL'S CHURCH WILL USE FEW COMMUNION, WAIT UNTIL
 EVERYONE HAS RECEIVED THE BREAD AND AT THE SIGNAL
 FROM THE MINISTER, WE ALL PARTAKE TOGETHER. THE SAME
 PROCEDURE IS USED WITH THE CUP.
 DEACON AND MRS. DAVID CURTIS WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL
 AT THE DOOR TODAY.
 WE WISH TO THANK ELDER ROBERT TAIT FOR SERVING AS
 LITURGIST TODAY AND ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE.
 PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD SO THAT OUR CHURCH'S
 RECORDS ARE ACCURATE. YOU WILL FIND THEM IN THE
 RECEPTACLE ON THE BACK OF THE PEWS.
 IF VISITORS WILL PUT EITHER THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF
 THEIR CHURCH OR THEIR PASTOR ON THE BACK OF THE
 COMMUNION CARD, IT WILL BE FORWARDED.
 WE WISH TO THANK THE YOUTH FOR HELPING WITH THE CANDLE-
 LIGHTING.
 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FLOWERS FOR JANUARY ON THE
 ALTAR - PLEASE SIGN THE NEW CHART IN THE NARTHEX.
 ST. PAUL'S WISH YOU AND YOURS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
 AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"O ALMIGHTY GOD, WHO BY THE BIRTH OF THY HOLY CHILD
 JESUS HAST GIVEN US A GREAT LIGHT TO DAWN UPON OUR
 DARKNESS, GRANT, WE PRAY THEE, THAT IN HIS LIGHT WE
 MAY SEE LIGHT TO THE END OF OUR DAYS; AND BESTOW
 UPON US, WE BESEECH THEE, THAT MOST EXCELLENT CHRIST-
 MAS GIFT OF CHARITY TO ALL MEN, THAT SO, THE LIKENESS
 OF THY SON MAY BE FORMED IN US, AND THAT WE MAY HAVE
 THE EVER-BRIGHTENING HOPE OF EVERLASTING LIFE;
 THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

"SAM'S SONG" - A CHRISTMAS MONOLOGUE
CHARACTER: SAMUEL - A JEWISH MERCHANT

SAM GREETING SIMON

TIME: PASSOVER OBSERVANCE

WORRIED BOUT HIS WEL-BEING (A ZEALOT IN DANGER)

THOT PERHAPS MAYB DED, KILLD BY ROMNS & LEFT FOR BUZZARDS

GLAD U R OK

IT AILS U SOMON? U DONT ACT LIK OLD SELF

PERHAPS REBECA'S DATE BRED/WINE WIL HELP - WIL U JOIN ME?

THEY,THATS BETTR, NOW LETS HAV A LITTL CHAT

(SPK TO CUSTOMR - PLEASE NO TOUCH, U BRK & BUY IS MOTTO)

GUDS,THAT TABL CANB HANDLD NOT SO DELICAT - THANK U MAM CUM

SIMON, U NO KNO PROBS HAV W/SHOP LIK THIS AGIN

WEN FIRST START HAD PROBS PUT FUD TABL & NOW HAV PROBS CLOSUP FOR NITE

(SPK CUSTMR - YES LADY THAT RT PRIC FOR VASE - EEIE, EEIE,

ALL DAY QUIBL OVR PRIC ASK QUESTS,& WHY NO HAV LIK ZACK HAS

NO CARE BOUT ZACK,THIS SAM'S, NOT HIS

WATS THAT? HOW I GET STARTD THIS BUSNES

WEL SIMON,WEN BOUT UR AGE, 30YR ON SO AGO,I CAM BETH FR/JERUS

WANTD GET WAY FR/BIG CITY & WANT GET BUSNESNOT 2DIF,YET PAY

FAIR RETURN ON MECNEY

MAN NAM SAUL HAD THIS PLAC FOR SALE ,I CAM, LKD & BOT - BOY WAS HE AS SALESMAN

SED HEROD HAD PLANS RAIS TAXES,THIS TWN WUD BOOM & I SIT MIDL OF RUSH

1st WINTR barly mak ends meet & ING BOUT MNTH KISLEV WORD CAM EVRONE HAD GO BAK HOMETWN & REGISTR FOR TAX PURP

EMP AUGUSTUS NEED MONEY MILITARY & THUS CENSUSTWAS PACKD,

MUCH LIK NOW - PEOP EEVERMHER & I DID BUSNES U NO BLIEV

INNS ALL FUL,PEOPL CAMP LAWNS,YARDS, EVRWHERE

IT COLD & PEOP NO HAD PLACES 2GO - I RENT OUT BAK RM ON FLOOR

WENT MOV MERCHANDIS OUT FRNT 2MAK RM FOR ANOTHR & ANOTHR & FULL

CHARG TOP SHEKEL,BUT NO ONE COMPLAIN,GLDD GET PLAC LX DWN

BUT TALK WIERD NITES - THAT NITE WIERSES EVR,PEO ARIV ALL DAY TWN FUL,BUT YET STIL THEY CAM

LATE NITE-MAN LEAD DONKY,WOMAN SIT CN & REALY LK MISERBL,

NO, NOT SIK, VERY EVIDENT SHE PREGNANT

HE TY DONKY OUT FRONT & GO ZINN CROSS STREET CHEK CN ROOM

MY WIF TRY COMF WOMAN WHIL I WATCH SHOP FOR SHOPLIFTRS

REBECA TEL ME LATR THEY FR/NAZ & SHE START HAV PAINS

WEN MAN CAM BAK TEL NO CAN GET ROOM,OFFR RENT SPAC MY BAK ROOM, BUT I HAD TURN DWN BCUZ WE FUL

HE SED WUD LK STABL INNKEEPR SED CUD USE,I LET REBECA RUN SHOP

WHIL WENT W/HIM

ANIMLS PACKD IN THER TOO,SO I MOV MY DONKY & SEVRL OTHERS & PUT

FRESH STRAW ON FLOOR SO CUD HAV SUM COMF THEN RUN SHOP TIL

CLOS TIME

WEN FINLY GOT LAS CUSTMR OUT & TURN DWN LAMPS,SAT OUTSID FOR SUM

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - CHR1 MAS EVE 1997 - 7:00 P.M.

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS

MERRY XMAS FR/OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

GREET VISITORS - WRITE NAME ON BACK SHIRT/COAT

THANK MEMBRS FOR CARDS,WELL WISHES & CONG FOR MONETARY GIF

LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS WREATH

*HYMN 171 - JOY TO THE WORLD

PRAYER & OFFERING ????????

*DOXOLOGY ??????????

SCRIPTURE AND CAROLS - (FIRST VERSES ONLY OF EACH)

THE PROMISE OF THE MESSIAH - MICAH 5:2

CAROL 178 - O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

THE JOURNEY OF MARY AND JOSEPH - LUKE 2:1-7

CAROL 185 - AWAY IN A MANGER

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE SHEPHERDS-LUKE 2:8-14

CAROL 175 - WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

THE COMMON VISITATION TO THE CHRIST CHILD-LUKE 2:15-20

CAROL 184 - HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

THE ROYAL VISITATION TO THE CHRIST CHILD - MATTHEW 2:1-11

CAROL 206 - WE THREE KINGS

*BISTMAS PRAYER

CAROL 193 - O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL - (ALL VERSE)

CHRISTMAS MONOLOGUE -"SAM'S SONG"

CANDLELIGHTING - (PASS IT ON BY KATBY MORGAN)

CLOSING CAROL 195 - SILENT NIGHT - (REMAIN SEATED TIL LAST VS)

*BENEDICTION

I KEP THINK BOUT THIS & DIDNT WHETHR BLIEV ALL THIS OR NOT
 BUT U KNO SIMON,TH/MOR I THINK BOUT IT,TH/MOR SENS IT MAKES
 CAL ME CRAKPOD IF U WANT, BUT DU'NT IT MAK SENS IF GOD WUD
 CUM AS A CHILD WUDNT HE ASOCIAT W/POOR AS WEL AS WELTHY???
 SHEPS & ASTROLOGRS??? DU'NT THAT MAK SENS TO U???
 AND NOTHR THING I HAV HERD LOT BOUT MAN WHO IS LDR OF UR GANG,
 OK, SICIPLS IF U WANT TO BE CALLD THAT,
 /BUT WAT IS HIS NAME - JESUS???
 HAV IT ON GUD AUTHORITY HE TH/SAME ONE BORN THAT NITE SUM 30YRS
 AGO. DID U KNO THAT SIMON???
 WEL I WANT TEL U SUMTH SIMON & PLEAS NO THINK I'V LOST MY HED,
 THER IS THAT SAME FEELING IN THIS TWN TONITE AS THER WAS WEN
 HE BORN
 TH/SAME CROWDS & ONLY DIF IS THEY HERE FOR PASSOVR & OTHR EVEN
 WAS FOR CENSUS
 IT JUS SEEM AIR CHARGD W/AIR OF EXPECTANCY
 AND I'LL TEL U SUMTH ELS TOO,I LET OTHR OPTUNTNY SLIP THRU MY
 FINGRS & WONT LET HAPPN AGAIN
 I INTEND FIND OUT WHO UR LEADR IS & IF HE IS WHO HE SUPPOSD TO
 BE I'M GO TO SIGN UP W/HIM
 WHER DID U SAY U WER NOW?? IN THAT HALL W/UPPR ROOM WHER THOZ
 SPECIL BANQUETS R HELD??? I KNOW WHER IT IS IN JERU
 AS SOON AS I CAN GET AWAY I'LL BE UP TO SEE U & UR FRENDS
 IT WONTB UNTIL FRIDAY PROBLY SIMON, BUT I'LL BE THER & MEET UR
 FFEND
 WEL I BETTER CLOS NOW & TEL REBECA TH/NEWS I HERD FR/ you
 THANKS FOR STOPING SIMON & I'LL PROBLY C U IN JERU ON FRIDAY
 SO LONG NOW!
 I WONDR IF THINGS JUS MITE CUM 2 A HED IN JERU DURING THIS
 PASSOVR FEAST
 STRNG HOW WORDS THAT PROPH - UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US
 A SON IS GIVN, KEEP GO THRU MY MIND
 I BETTER HURRY & TEL REBECA TH/SAME THING IS HAPNIN AGIN,
 AND IT MAY NOT HAPN AGAIN AFTR THIS

FRESH AIR & IT VERY COLD
 WRAP CLOKE BOUT ME & WATCH MI. CROWDS GO FR/SHOP TO SHOP & 21
 I GRIN TO SELF & THINK "THANK GOD I NOT AS HUNGRY FOR MONEY AS
 SUM MY FELLOW JEWS
 BUT I SHUD HAV EXPEC SUMTH GO AMIS BCUZ I HAD A FEELING BOUT IT
 AT 1ST ASUM MEN WHO CAM TO TWN WER RUFIANS FR/JERU INTENT ON
 M'X TRUBL
 EY CAM DWN STREET QUES EVRONE MEET & I THOT THEY UP TO NO GI
 V. THEY CAM TO ME I REDY SIMON,I HAD MY DAGGR CLUTCH UNDR CLGKI
 LIK ZEALOTS HAD SHOWN ME TO DO - AT 1ST SIGN TRUBL WUD TAKN CAR
 I SURPRIS WEN HE ASK IF KNU WHER SAV WAS BORN? LDR
 THEN THOT THEZ MEN HAD TOO MUCH WINE AT INN UP ROAD,BUT THEY
 WER SERIUS & TOL HOW ANGLS CUM TO THEM ON HILSID & TOL XP THE
 LORD HAD CUM
 WEL MY CURIOSITY AROUS,BUT I STIL NOT SUR THEY ON LEVEL & TOL TH
 NO HERD BABY B BORN - BUT REBECA CUM OUT CHEK ON ME,HEAR BOUT
 BABY & SED, I WUD THIN K THAT WAS WOMAN CAM BY CN SONKY
 I HAD FORGOTTN BOUT HER & HUSBAND - SO SENT THEM TO STABL
 IT STIL SND FAR FETCH & I DIDNT THINK 2MUCH OF IT
 SO I WENT ~~XXXXX~~ SHUTTRD UP TH/SHOP & WENT TO BED
 TH/LAS THING HERD WAS REBECA TEL ME I TOO CYNICL & NO BLIEV
 UNLES I SAW IT
 NEX THIN I WOK & IT BRITE AS DAY & MUS BIN THIRD WATCH SO N TE
 NOT OVR
 FIRST THOT DHOP ON FIRE,BUT NO SMEL SMOK THEN THOT THOZ SHEPS
 MUS START FIRE CROS STREET
 I JUMPF FR/BED & C PEOPL MIL BOUT LK AT SKY,I NO KNO IF ONE STAI
 OR ALL OF THEM BUT NITE WAS DAY
 SAW THREE MEN DRES LIK ROYLTY W/SERV & RIDE CAMELS
 AS PAS BY HERD ASK INNKEEPR CROS STREET IF KNU WHER K OF JEW
 HE JUS GOT UP & WAS FURIOUS B AWAKND BORN
 I HAVNT HERD SUCH LANGUAG HE USED SINC SERVD ROMAN LEGION
 BUT WEN ASK WHER K OF JEWS BORN IT RING BEL & RECAL HOW CERT
 PROPHS SPK BOUT THIS & ONE WROT-UNTO US A CHILDISBORN, UNTO
 US A SON IS GIVN & HE WUD RULE ISRAEL
 I RUSH OVR & TEL HIM BOUT BARK IN BAK, SHPS & WHOL STORY
 THEY OVRJOY & TEL HAD POLO STAR & LEHN THEY ASTROLOGRS
 BUT SEEM SO UNREAL HAV PRORS BLIEV - WHY WUD MESIAH B BORN IN
 BETH I KEP ASK & OUTOF CURIOSITY I WENT TO STABL
 I SAW THER TH/SHPS,TH/ASTROLOGRS,MOTHR/FATHR% BABY
 THEY WER SAY HE WAS EMMANUEL, & I BGAN GRASP MEAN OF ALL THIS
 ACCORD JEM RELIG MESIAH 2CUM & DELIVR US FR/ENMYS & THIS WAS
 THAT MESIAH THEY KEPT SAYING
 AT FIRST NO BLIEV GOD WUD CUM THIS FORM OR WUD HE?? I KEP ASK
 SELF OVR & OVR
 BUT WIFE,REBECA HAD NO DOUBTS WATEVR SHE TOL ME SHE HAD HERD
 SINGING B4 ASTROLOGRS CAM & I ASK WHY SHE NO WAK ME
 SHE SED BCUZ I SO CYNICL SHE DIDNT THINK I'D BLIEV IT
 ALL REMEMBR AFTR THIS WAS EVRONE LEF TWN & FAMLY LEF IN HURRY
 & WAS TOLD THEY WER GO TO EGYPT

SAM'S SONG

Well hello there Simon. What brings you to town ~~enough~~ during all this rush and turmoil? I assumed you would be with your friends living it up feasting. Well no matter, it is good to see you again. I have been trying to keep tabs on your career and to tell you the truth I have had a few scares concerning your well being. From time to time I hear of one or two of you Zealots being arrested and each time I keep hoping that you are not one of them. Then when I didn't hear from you for a while I began thinking that perhaps you had been killed in the desert by one of the Roman patrols and left there for the buzzards.

What ails you Simon? You don't act like your old self. Oh well, a little of ~~my wife's~~ ^{REBECCA'S} date bread and some of that new wine will fix your disposition. What do you say, will you join me? There that's more like the old Simon, now we can have a nice talk.

No, no madam, please don't touch those trinkets, they are much too fragile. to handle. You know our motto, if you break it, you buy it. The goods on that table over there can be handled ~~enough~~ ~~enough~~ because they are not as delicate. Thank you maam, please come back. Ah Simon, to be free and have no cares and ^{to} come and go as one pleases/ You have no idea the problems that I have with this curio shop. I had problems getting enough trade to keep food on my table when I first started ~~out~~ and now I have problems trying to close up for the night. Yes, lady that is the right price for that vase. ~~Eieie~~, Eieie! how they bother me. All day long I answer questions and listen to the customers quibble over the price, and why don't I have this like Zacks shop in Jerusalem. They can't seem to understand that this is Sam's curio shop and not Zacks. I could care less what he has.

What's that? How did I ever get in this business if it is such a bother. [?] Well Simon, when I was about your age long about 30 years ago I came to this town to get away from the big city of Jeru-

salem. I wanted to get into something that wasn't too difficult to do and yet gave a fair return on an investment. Well old Saul had this place for sale and I came and looked at it. Boy was he a salesman. He told me how this town was going to boom. He said that Herod had some plans to get extra money out of the people and I would be sitting in the middle of the rush.

Well, that first winter I was barely making ends meet until long about December the final word came out that everyone had to go to their hometown and be counted for tax purposes. The emperor Augustus needed more money for his military might and so the census. Well, you should have seen this town then. It was crowded, well just about like it is now. People were everywhere. I was selling my curios like I had never sold them before or since for that matter. I was wishing I had another warehouse full, because I think I could have gotten rid of them and then some.

^{IN} The inns were all full. People were camping ~~on peoples~~ lawns and ^{IN} yards. It was rather cold as I recall, but there was no place for most people to go. I remember that I rented out spaces on the floor of the back room. I had to keep moving my merchandise out front to make room for another and yet another. I charged them all top dollar but no one complained because they were just glad to get a place to stay.

But talk about weird nights. Boy that one night was about the weirdest I ever spent. People kept coming into town all day. By nightfall you would have thought this town couldn't hold anymore. But still they kept on coming.

^{W/HO} There was a fellow came into town leading a donkey and his wife was in ~~miser~~ riding on the animal. ^{SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS IN MISERY} No she wasn't sick, the man said she was due to have a baby and it was just about ~~the~~ the time so he needed a place to stay. He tied the donkey out front while he went ~~over~~ across the street to the inn to see if he could get a room.

My wife tried to help the woman while she sat on the donkey out front. I had to take care of the store and watch ~~so no one~~ ^{FOR SHOPLIFTERS BUT REBECCA} took something without paying. ¹ My wife told me afterward ~~that~~ the woman said they had come from Nazareth and ~~that~~ she was starting to have pains and they could not go any further.

When the man came back he told me he was unable to get a room and he offered to rent my back room. I showed him that I had rented out all available space. He said he was going to look at the stable in back of the inn. I let my wife run the store for a while and went along with him. Good thing I did too, because the animals in there were packed two and three to a stall. I moved my donkey out of the one stall and got some fresh ~~xxx~~ straw from the loft so they could at least rest in comfort. Then I came back to the store.

When I finally was able to clear the shop of the last stubborn customer looking for a bargain, I put out the ^{LAMPS} ~~lanterns~~ in the shop and sat outside by the curb ^{TO} ~~to~~ just get a breath of air. ¹ It was very cold, but I wrapped my cloak about me and watched the crowds milling back and forth from the other shops that still tried to pry the last shekel from the customers. I was grinning to myself and thinking that thank God I wasn't as money hungry as some of my fellow Jews. But I should have expected that something would go amiss that night, for there was a kind of indefinable feeling that I had. 7

At first I assumed those men who came into town were some of the wild ruffians from Jerusalem, intent on causing trouble. As I eyed them up I thought they must be up to no good ^{BECAUSE} ~~and~~ why were they stopping every so often coming down the street and rapping on doors. When they came to me Simon, I was ready for them. I had my ^{DASSER} ~~sicari~~ clutched in my hand under my cloak just like the Zealots ~~xxxx~~ taught me. At the first sign of something out of the ordinary I would have taken care of the leader.

Well you can imagine my surprise when he asked if I knew

where the Saviour had been born. Then I thought these men must have had too much wine at the inn farther up the road. But he was dead serious. He told me how angels had come to them up on the hillside and told them that Christ the Lord had come.

Well, this aroused my curiosity, but I still wasn't too sure they were on the level. I told them I hadn't heard of a baby being born. My wife happened to come out to see where I was and she heard the part about a baby and right away she says, "I'll bet that's the woman who rode up here on that donkey." I had forgotten all about her. So we sent them over to the stable. I didn't think too much about their story. It still sounded a little far fetched. So I put out the rest of the ~~lamps~~ lamps and shuttered up the store and went to bed. The last thing I heard was ~~my wife~~ ^{REBECCA} telling me I was too cynical and didn't believe anything unless I saw it. I think I almost fell asleep before my head hit the mat. The next thing I knew I awoke and it was as bright as day. Surely I thought it can't be daylight already.

I felt as though I had only gone to sleep. It must have been about the third watch. I thought that perhaps my shop was on fire. But I didn't smell smoke. Then I thought that perhaps those weird looking men who called themselves shepherds had started a fire across the street to divert attention while they robbed several of the shops.

I jumped from my bed and ran out to the street to see what was going on. Outside there was quite a stir. People were milling around and looking at the sky. I don't know if it was one star or all of them but the night was as light as day. And coming down the street was a caravan. As they drew nearer ~~xxxxxxx~~ I saw that there were three well dressed men along with servants all riding camels. As they passed near me they stopped and asked the innkeeper on the other side of the street if he knew where the King of the Jews had been born. He had just gotten up too I could tell and he was furious for this interruption of

his sleep. I haven't heard such language as he used on those men since I served my time in the Roman Legion.

But when they asked where the King of the Jews had been born, only then did it ring a bell. I recalled from the prophets how one had said, "Unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called, wonderful, counselor, the Mighty king, the everlasting father, the prince of peace." I rushed over to the one who seemed to be the leader and told him of the shepherds coming earlier looking for this Christ. When I told him that I thought the baby must be in the stable he was really overjoyed. He threw me a shekel for my trouble and thanked me. He said they had been following a star to ~~here~~ ^{THIS SPOT} and that was what was causing this bright light. I learned later they were astrologers from the East.

But still I didn't quite believe all of this. It seemed so unreal. Why would a Messiah be born in Bethlehem I kept asking? Out of curiosity I went to the stable. ~~I saw~~ ^{I SAW} there the shepherds gathered around the manger. The astrologers were there as well and all of them were smiling and radiant. The mother looked so young and beautiful. The father just smiled along with the rest of them. It was only when they started saying that this baby was Emmanuel that I began to grasp the meaning of this night. According to our Jewish religion we were to be delivered from our enemies by a Messiah. And this was that Messiah they kept repeating.

At first I couldn't begin to believe that God would come in this form. Or would he? I kept asking myself this over and over. But my wife Rebecca, had no doubts whatsoever. She told me she had heard singing right before the astrologers came and before I arrived on the scene. I asked her why she didn't awaken me, and she told me because I am always so cynical. ^{SHE DIDN'T THINK I'D BELIEVE IT.} I didn't hear singing or did I? I still don't know for sure.

All I remeber after that is they left town in a hurry. Someone said they were headed for Egypt. I kept thinking about this thing and thinking about ^{IT} ^F but I don't know whether to believe it or not. But you know Simon, the more I think about it the more sense it makes. I know, call me a crackpot if you want to, but doesn't it make sense that this Messiah should come as a child? Wouldn't God want him to be associated with the common man as well as the wealthy? Sort of like the shepherds and the astrologers? Doesn't that make sense to you?

And one other thing. I have heard a lot about that man who is the leader of your gang. What's his name? Jesus isn't it? Well, I got it on good authority that he is ~~xxxxxx the same~~ the same one ~~as the one~~ who was born that night. Did you know that?

Well I want to tell you one thing Simon and please don't think I've lost my head, there is that same feeling in this town tonight as there was when he was born. The same crowds, the same milling throng. The only difference is they are here for the feast of the Passover and that other event was for the census.

It just seems like the air is charged with a sort of feeling of hope or expectancy. And I'll tell you something else too. I let that other opportunity slip through my fingers and I won't let it happen again. I intend to find out about your leader and if he is who he is supposed to be, I'm going to ~~sign~~ sign up with him. Where did you say you are now? Is that the ^{UPPER ROOM OF THE} hall where most of the special banquets are held in that section of Jerusalem. Well I know that section pretty well. As soon as I can get things organized here to get away, I'll be up to see you and your friends. It won't be until at least Friday Simon, but I'll be there for I want to meet your friend.

^{WELL} ~~is~~ I better close the shop now and tell Rebecca the news I heard from you. Thanks for stopping Simon I'll prably see you in Jerusalem on Friday. So long now.

I wonder if thingsj just might come to a head in Jerusalem this Passover Feast. Strange, how the words of that prophet keep going through my mind, "Unto a child is born; unto us a son is given, And the government shall be upon his shoulder; And his name shall be called wonderful, counselor, The mighty king, the everlasting Father the prince of peace. I better hurry and tell Rebecca that the same thing is happening again, and it may not happen again after this ---

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 30, 1973
 MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
 MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
 MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
 ELDER ROBERT BASEHORE, LITURGIST
 RODDIE VINROE, CHRIST CAMPBELL - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
 PRELUDE MUSIC: "MORNING PRELUDE" READ
 "HE IS GRACIOUS" MOLIQUE

SILENT PRAYER
 *PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 102 "HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING"
 *ACRISPION - CHORAL AMEN
 *EXHORTATION
 *CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, WHO PUTTEST INTO OUR
 HEARTS SUCH DEEP DESIRES THAT WE CANNOT BE AT PEACE
 UNTIL WE REST IN THEE; MERCIFULLY GRANT THAT THE LONGING
 OF OUR SOULS MAY NOT GO UNSATISFIED BECAUSE OF ANY
 UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF LIFE THAT MAY SEPARATE US FROM THEE.
 OPEN OUR MINDS TO THE COUNSELS OF ETERNAL WISDOM; BREATHE
 INTO OUR SOULS THE PEACE WHICH PASSETH UNDERSTANDING.
 LET OUR HUNGER AND THIRST BE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT WE
 MAY BE FILLED WITH THE DREAD OF HEAVEN. O LORD, GIVE US
 GRACE TO SEEK FIRST THY KINGDOM; AND WE KNOW THAT THOU
 WILT ADD UNTO US ALL THINGS NEEDFUL. AMEN."
 *KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)
 *ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN
 *PRAISE
 *LAY READER: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.
 *PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE."
 *DOXOLOGY No. 551
 SCRIPTURE LESSON: PSALM 90
 HYMN No. 106 "WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT"
 ORGAN MEDITATION
 SERMON: "YET ANOTHER!"
 PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER
 *GLORIA PATRI
 *AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)
 SGLD: "GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD MORNING" RODEHEARER
 HOWARD BOLAM
 *CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.
 *PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.
 *PASTOR: LET US PRAY.
 *PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE
 OFFERTORY "BERCEUSE" ILYINSKY - MARILY STEPHENSON
 DEDICATION
 *HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 315 "LEAD KINDLY LIGHT"
 *BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN
 ORGAN POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL" MARTIN
 *CONGREGATION STANDING
 THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
 THE CHILDREN IN MEMORY OF MRS. HELEN MCGREGOR.
 SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: "ALVIN TAIT, ROBERT
 STEWART, JAMES MCGLYMONDS, MIKE NAZARUK.
 ELDER AND MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL
 AT THE DOOR TODAY.
 MRS. RAYMOND COVERT AND FAULA STEPHENSON WILL BE IN
 NURSERY TODAY.
 THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 49 AND 231.
 MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE DEPARTED ST. PAUL'S
 DURING 1973:
 MR. RALPH H. SCHAEFFER MRS. FLORA MAY HARPER
 INFANT JON HERBERT VENSEL MRS. GRACE HOLMAN
 MR. JAMES L. FOLLIARD MRS. FAYE M. CROUCH
 MRS. SARAH NELLIE DIAMOND MRS. GRACE E. STEFFLER
 MR. HARRY F. MCGLYMONDS MRS. GERTRUDE FRENCH
 MRS. LEONA PETERS MR. CLARENCE E. SHAKELY
 WED. - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
 THURS. - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE
 HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.
 ALL OF JANUARY IS OPEN FOR ALTAR FLOWERS - PLEASE
 SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX OR CONTACT BEA TAIT.
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BOOKS WILL CLOSE AS OF DEC. 31
 (TOMORROW), ANY MONIES GIVEN AFTER TOMORROW WILL BE
 CREDITED TO 1974.
 ALL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD HAVE REPORTS IN FOR YEARDOOK
 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
 THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REMIND US THEY ARE STILL
 SAVING LIDS OFF OF MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE CANS (PLASTIC).
 A BOX IS IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

2/
We have eaten, have drunk, have been merry, and now
facing death, starvation in many areas.

People today worship gods of pills, or bottles, or
sex, or lust, greed, prestige, or position.
Have been hurray for me, heck with you,
t, these gods lead to frustration & misery.

Many of these are young people, who say, turned off
by religion.

Part of what say is true, but fact remain can only
change that which wants to be changed.
Other words, people want be relig, want be God fear,
God believe, will change selves toward this end.

(Illustration of man who old drunk for yrs)
Certain reprobate turned sober and relig. Had bear
taunts and teasings of fellow workers. Would ask all
sorts questions bout beliefs & what relig did for him.
Asked, If believed in miracles of Js. Said yes.
Asked, do believe turned bread & few fish into enuf
feed large crowd. Said yes. Do believe changed water
wine. Said, "Don't know about that, but in my own lif
changed beer into furniture."

This what Js to believer.

Can work miracles in our lives if let him
He roots of faith, & this lacking in lives of cynics
scoffers, turned off youth, & others.

Need never fear new yr or any new day as long as cling
to Js.

On test in school question asked, "upon what do hiber-
nating animals subsist during winter?" One little
girl, "Upon hope of spring."

This many people, hope tomorrow things better, hope
lives improve, hope things take better perspective,
hope, hope, and hope again.

On radio, comedian, skit knocking on doors, "I hope
I make a sale here, I hope I hope, I hope."
Al Pierce was man & did for laugh, but many live
this way.

Contrast with hymn writer words;

My hope is built on nothing less, than Js blood &
righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean
on Js name.

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground
is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

"Yet Another!"

Psalm 90:9, "Our years come to an end like a sigh."

(Illustration of Christian barber)

A barber newly converted decided to witness to his
customers. A man walked into his shop and asked for
shave. After he had lathered the man's face and
was stropping the razor, he leaned close to the man
and whispered in his ear, "Are you ready to die?"
Naturally the man fled from the shop.

As we stand at beg. of ~~xxxxxx~~ yet another new year,
are reminded of frailty of life.

- Psalmist says, "Our years come to an end like a sigh
Be able to face reality life fleeting & brief, wise

To face reality be prepared die is another reality
Reality that must be faced, and not completely
pleasant.

But as stand on threshold of yet another new
year, do not know, nor can foresee what in store
for each of us.

To talk of endings at beginning perhaps strange.

Not only time to look at beginnings, but also back-
ward at yr. ending and see what done by each. us.
and perhaps much left undone.

Each yr. faced by many people in many diff ways.

Some with fear and dread,
Some with foreboding, some with hope,
Still others confidence and assurance

Fears greatly magnified this year with en. crisis as
approach new yr.

hortage of many materials contributes to fears of
many.

Recent conversation with undertaker, concern about
recent crises.

Personal feeling, latter day:

Js told of what sow, that reap

Have sowed waste, pollution, careless stewardship,
wasted natural resources.

Greed to have more, bigger cars, houses, more
appliances, more this, that.

Now reaping fruit of what sown.

Js. also predicted conflicts and problems in latter dy
foresee present crises start of those

Nation, well as world has become morally, spiritually,
economically bankrupt.

This affirmation complete faith & trust.
Faith & trust that whatever life bring, Js. is center
of that life.

When think of life, we realize short & brief
Have no permanent home on earth.
Each only certain amount time & then, "Yrs come to
end like a sigh."

All can recall sudden passing of friends loved ones.
All kinds examples, "here today gone tomorrow."
To unbeliever this tragic.
To Christian assurance with God beyond grave.
Basically outlook on life determined largely by depth
of faith.
If faith wishy, washy, then face life, fear & dread
or just a hope things will be differ.

But if faith strong, can be assured, no matter what
befall, God will see through.
Can be assured tomorrow, & tomorrows tomorrow will
be days in which God will walk with us each step
Start of decade of 70's commentator asked what will be
Said, 60's decade assassinations, riots, violence.
70's will be same., if not worse.

Have been so, To this man & many others, world of
frustration, hopelessness, despair.
To us it is same thing, but, can be tolerated, for
can have life more abundantly,
simply because lives in care & keeping of Him
Him, who is way, truth, life.

Sure, living in trying times,
Living in times, try soul of saint.
But living in exciting times as well.
Times in which opportunities to serve much greater

All ages have problems, ours no different
So if we as Xpians can muster our faith & confidence,
this year, as well all yrs, can be yrs, in which
we can serve our Lord.

Should be able say as face each yr, "Can do all things
through Christ who strengthens me."

Then fear, dread gone, hoping thing of past & when
yrs come to end like a sigh" we know that Christ
will be with us and we with Him.

"Yet Another"

Text: Psalm 90:9 "Our years come to an end like a sigh."

A Christian barber who felt he must testify about his Lord, received as his first customer a man who wanted a shave. After the man was seated in the chair and tilted back into position, the barber standing beside the chair and very vigorously stropping the razor asked him, "Are you ready to die?" At which the man jumped from the chair and left the shop.

As we stand at the beginning of yet another new year, we are reminded again that the very frailty of life is ~~such that~~ as the Psalmist said, "Our years come to an end like a sigh." To be able to face the reality that life is a brief and fleeting thing is to be wise. To face the reality that we should be prepared to die is yet another reality. It is a reality we all must face and it is not completely pleasant to be sure. But as we stand on the threshold of another ~~HE~~ year, we do not know, nor can we foresee what is in store for each of us.

To talk of endings at the beginning of the year is perhaps strange. But it is not only a time of looking ahead to beginnings, but also a time of looking back at the year just ended and seeing what was done by each of us, and what has perhaps been left undone. Each new year is faced by many people in many different ways. Some approach it with dread and forboding. Some look at it with hope. Still others enter it with confidence and reassurance.

To fear the new year shows in essence a life that is lived or has been lived hap-hazardly or without concern for the consequences of our actions. The convicted criminal awaiting execution is certainly not looking forward to the new year. He knows that each day brings him closer to his doom. A person awaiting trial or a pending lawsuit does not look forward to the new year for the dread of its

The fears of people are greatly magnified ~~this~~ as we approach the new year. The energy crisis, the shortage of many other materials caused by the scarcity of oil, all of this is contributing to the fears and forebodings of many people. In a recent conversation with one of the men at the Thompson Miller funeral home, the man expressed his concern about the crises that are being pressed upon all of us. My personal feeling and belief is that we are presently living in the latter days. Jesus has told us that as we sow, so shall we reap. We have ~~reapingly~~ sowed waste, careless stewardship of our natural resources, greed to have more than the other fellow; bigger cars, larger houses, more appliances and labor saving devices, more ~~and~~ leisure and pleasure, more of this and more of that, and now we are reaping the fruit of what we have sown.

And also Jesus predicted that we would have conflicts and problems in the latter days, and I foresee our present crises to be the start of those problems and conflicts. Our nation, as well as the world has become morally, spiritually, and economically bankrupt. We have eaten, we have drunk, and we are presently facing death and starvation in many areas.

Many people today have turned to a worship of a God of the pill, or of the bottle, or a god of lust and greed, prestige or position. It has been for many hurrahs for me and the heck with you. But these kinds of gods lead to more misery and frustration. Many of these people are our young people and they say they are turned off by religion. Part of what they are saying and have said is true, but the fact remains that we can only change that which wants to be changed.

In other words if people want to be religious and want to be God fearing and God believing people, they will change themselves. toward this end.

A certain old reprobate who had been a hopeless drunk for many years, suddenly turned into a sober and religious man. For this he had to bear the taunts and the teasings of his fellow workers. They would ask him all sorts of questions about his beliefs, and what religion had done for him. One day they were teasing him and asking him if he believed in the miracles of Jesus. He replied that he did. They said, "Do you really believe for instance that he turned

a few loaves of bread and a few fishes into enough to feed a large crowd. He replied he did. "Do you actually believe that Jesus turned that water into wine?" they asked. "Well, I don't know whether he turned water into wine," he answered. "But, in my own life, I know that he turned beer into furniture," he remarked.

And this is what Christ is to the believer. He is the one who can work His miracles in lives if we let Him. He is the roots to hold our faith, and this is what is lacking ~~xxxxx~~ in the lives of the cynics, the scoffers, the turned off youth and any others. We need never fear the new year or any new new day, as long as we have Christ to cling to.

On a test that was given in a certain school the question asked was, "Upon what do hibernating animals subsist during the winter?" One little girl answered, "On the hope of spring."

Isn't this how a lot of people live? They hope things will get better. They hope their lives will improve. They hope things will take on a better perspective. They hope, and they hope and they hope again. They are much like the comedian of a few years ago on the radio who in his skits was always involved in a door to door sales pitch. At each door he would say something like, "I hope I make a sale here, I hope, I hope, I hope." The man was named Al pierce and although he did it for laughs, there ~~xxxxxxx~~ are many people who live this way. Their entire lives are built on hope and nothing else. Contrast this with the hymn writer who penned the lines,

"My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name.
On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand."

This is an affirmation of absolute faith and trust. A faith and trust in whatever life may bring, because Jesus is the center of that life.

When we think of life, we realize that it is but a brief and a fleeting thing. We have no permanent home here on earth. We each only have a certain amount of time and then, "Our years come to an end like a sigh." All of us can recall the very sudden passing of friends or loved ones. There are all kinds of examples of someone being, "Here today, and gone tomorrow," as the old saying goes. To the unbeliever this is tragic. But to those who are in Christ, there is the assurance that, that individual is with God in the life beyond the grave.

Basically our outlook on life is largely determined by our faith, the depth of
If our faith is wishy washy, then we face life with fear and dread, or a hope
that things will be different. But if our faith is strong, then we can be
assured that no matter what may befall us, God will see us through. We can
be assured that tomorrow, and tomorrows tomorrow will be days ~~in~~ in which God
will walk with us each step of the way.

At the start of the decade of the 70's a news commantator was asked
what his prediction of the 70's would be. He replied that the ~~70's would be~~
60's were years of ass~~s~~assinations, of bombings, of riots, and turmoil, and
that the 70's would be as bad if not worse." To this man the world of
today and tomorrow is a world of frustration and confusion. To us it is exactly
the same thing, but it is a life that can be tolerated, and a life that can
be more abundant, simply because we have our lives in the care and keeping
of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Sure, we are living in trying times. Sure, we are living in times
that would try the soul of a saint. But we are also living in very exciting
times. Times in which the opportunittes to serve are so much greater. Every
age has its problems and ours is no different. So if we as Christians can
muster our faith and our confidence, this year, as well as all years, can be
years in which we ~~serve~~ can really serve our Lord. We should be
able to say as we face each new year, "I can do all things through Christ who
strengthenens me."

Then fear ~~is gone~~ and dread are gone, hoping is a thing of the past,
and ~~xxxx~~ "When our years come to an end like a sigh," we know that ~~xxx~~ Christ
will be with us, and we with Him."

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 6, 1974

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
FATTY BASEHORE, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "IDYLL" NOLTE
"MORNING FRELUDE" MARTIN

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 123 "AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD"
*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER,
WE HAVE ERRED AND STRAYED FROM THY WAYS LIKE LOST SHEEP.
WE HAVE FOLLOWED TOO MUCH THE DEVICES AND DESIRES OF OUR
OWN HEARTS. WE HAVE OFFENDED AGAINST THY HOLY LAWS. WE
HAVE LEFT UNDONE THOSE THINGS WHICH WE OUGHT TO HAVE DONE,
AND WE HAVE DONE THOSE THINGS WHICH WE OUGHT NOT TO HAVE
DONE. BUT THOU, O LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON US. SPARE THOU
THOSE, O GOD, WHO CONFESS THEIR SINS. RESTORE THOU THOSE
WHO ARE PENITENT, ACCORDING TO THY PROMISES DECLARED UNTO
MANKIND IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AND GRANT, O MOST
MERCIFUL FATHER, FOR HIS SAKE, THAT WE MAY HEREAFTER LIVE A
GODLY, RIGHTEOUS AND SOBER LIFE, TO THE GLORY OF THY HOLY
NAME. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 30: 11-20

HYMN No. 126 "THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "BIG DREAMS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE"

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "ANDANTE CANTABILE" SIMONE

INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 299 "LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL" BEEBE

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
MR. & MRS. ROBERT TAIT TO THE "GLORY OF GOD".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *RAYMOND COVERT, JOHN
REDMAN, DANIEL BOSKO AND ROBERT KNAUER.

MR. & MRS. HOWARD BOLAM WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE
DOOR TODAY.

MRS. JOHN REDMAN, LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCBRIDE
WILL BE IN NURSERY TODAY.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. R. L. RICHEY - BCMH; MRS. CHARLES
(ELEANOR) MCWILLIAMS - GROVE CITY HOSPITAL.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF
OUR OLD FRIEND - TOM RAIMONDI.

TODAY - 2:00 P.M. - ALL PRESIDENTS, OR REPRESENTATIVE
OF EACH ORGANIZATION WILL MEET IN THE UNDERCROFT TO
MAKE UP THE NEW CALENDAR FOR THE COMING YEAR FOR THE
YEARBOOK. THE MEETING IS IMPORTANT - PLEASE PLAN TO
ATTEND - BRING A CALENDAR.

TONIGHT - 7-9 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETING

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY FRUGH CIRCLE

ARC WILL HOLD A BOWLING PARTY ON THE 18TH OF JAN.

AT FAMILY LANES FOR 7:00 SHARP.

TUES. - BOARD MEETING OF WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP AT 10:00

THURS. - 7:15 - GOLDEN CIRCLE WILL ENTERTAIN FRIEND-
SHIP CLUB OF MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN THE UNDER-
CROFT. (REGULAR MEETING NIGHT ON 16 WILL BE CANCELLED.)

THE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE FOR REV. LINK

TELEPHONE: 352-1103

ADDRESS: 153 KECK ROAD, SARVER, PENNA. 16055

ALL ORGANIZATIONS PLEASE TURN YOUR REPORTS IN TO BEA
TAIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE HAD SUCH A GOOD RESPONSE LAST SUNDAY FOR FLOWERS,
ONLY MARCH 17 AND 31 ARE OPEN UP THRU JUNE.

ART SNYDER, ROY THOMPSON
RAY COVERT, MRS. WILLIAM HANCOCK, F. Y.
CHANDLER, BEA TAIT

2/

If asked R. Cooper dreams, choir to sing perfectly
If asked Mrs. Collins dreams, to use 10 talented
ingers to play organ perfectly in worship of God
Ask any person of cong. involved in its work what
dream is, & will tell to do best job.
Martin Luther King in Wash. speech said, "I have a
dream."

He not only one, I have dream too.
My dream about this cong, & church.
I have dream one day I will see church overflowing
each Sunday
I have dream majority of cong, involved in its
work & not just a few.
I have dream that all cong. will tithe & give
rightful 10% to the Lord.
I have dream that influence of this church will
be felt & known thruout all Butler & County,
& surrounding areas.

Big Dreams? Sure they are, but can come true.

Have u ever approached Butler from Rte 8 North or
Rts 68, or S. Main at night?
If u have u know what I talking about, when say
looks like miniature Xmas village under tree.
Really beautiful, lites each house.

Coming in Butler several times, seeing lites of all
houses reminded me of story of Moses & Israelites
& speech to them.

In minds eye I looking out over city & thinking of
dream & vision of Moses.
I thot of Moses looking over Butler at nite & saying,
(Text, Deut 30:19)

Thot of each individ. house & occupants.
Wondered in mind how many never heard of Jesus C.
Wondered how many go bed each nite, & put out lite
I am seeing, only to lie down in bed after another
day of not finding rest for that longing in hearts

Wondered how many arise next day & search for peace
that cannot come except thru Christ.

Wondered how many these people never reached, not
because not enuf churches, but simply because effort
not made.

Is my biggest dream, to reach the unreached of
Butler & surrounding area.

"Big Dreams!"

Deut. 30:19, "I call heaven and earth to witness
inst you this day, that I have set before you
life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose
life that you and your descendants may live."

In 30th chap. of Deut read of Moses speaking to Israel
Standing on edge of promised land
Moses at point where cannot go over.
He not permitted to go with them
He is instructing them in what they must do.

But more than this, is telling them must make dreams
come true
"This day you longed for, planned for, yarned for,
"I call heaven and earth, etc.

Moses not just looking at Jordan and distant horizon
but is looking upon future horizon.
He is seeing visions not seen by them
He is seeing big dreams, & dreams can become real
He is seeing happiness & joy if willing follow God

Choice Moses is offering is life centered on God
Nice big dream, perhaps ridiculed, scoffed, laughed
Can picture some cynical Israelites in background,
"Get him, boy talk about a snow job, why he isn't
even going across & he telling us of dreams of his.

No evidence to support my thinking, but if look at
results of their history, could draw conclusion quite
a few of number unwilling to dream with leader.

Let if fellow going to dream, ~~must~~ may as well dream
big

Down history, many dream big.
Edison, Beethoven both deaf, yet heard music beyond
comprehension of others with good ears.
Luther afflicted with serious physical illnesses,
yet never stopped from writing & telling of love
of God.

But each had dreams, big dreams, & these dreams
motivated them & caused them to accomplish things
they did.

Do you have dreams?

I hope so.

I am sure if I asked what dreams are, would get
varied answers.

May sound impossible, & many maybe think is
 But with prayer, with work, with planning, & help of
 God can be done.

But takes vision.

Solomon in Proverbs, "Where there is no vision, the
 people perish

U & I must catch the visions God has for us.

I firmly believe God leading me this direction & this
 my vision

But must become vision of all of you

For me to only have the visions is to invite no
 spiritual attainment & invite stagnation.

We all know this is one of our problems.

It is no secret & we must know it.

We are on dead center & ~~must~~ unable move rt or left

It is task of not only me, but of all of us to get
 the momentum going again

Past Wed. Church Council voted & approved sending
 Pastor & layman to week long school of Evangelism in
 Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in May.

This not vacation, but program that could very easily
 change the entire complexion of this church.

We need to all pray for Pastor & a layman as they
 endeavor to become involved in a vital program as thi

But May, a few months away. We will not waste these
 precious days awaiting May.

I have some ideas, & will implement them in a few
 months.

But again, must stress a vision to succeed.

I cannot do all of the thinking & planning. If have
 any suggestions, please see me, or turn into office.
 Or call me & make arrangements to consult with you.

Do not hesitate to contact me & let's arrange to get
 together.

Past week visited shut-ins with Rev. Cooper. This
 enjoyable, but made me aware of need for home visits

This will do, but need prayers & support.

My prayer along with my dreams is that we as a cong.
 as a people, can catch the vision of a vital, alive,
 growing, worshiping, God fearing, Bible believing
 working church of Jesus Christ, here at St. Paul's.
 Our prayers daily, added to mine can make this real-
 ity. Let us catch the vision of big dreams.

(Text Deut. 30;19

"Big Dreams!"

Text: Deuteronomy 30:19,

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live." R.S.V.

Proverbs 29:18,

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

In the 30th chapter of Deuteronomy we read of Moses speaking to the Israelites. They are standing on the edge of the promised land. Moses has reached the point at which he must stop. He has been told by God that he will not be permitted to cross over the Jordan with them. So he is instructing them in what they must do.

But more than this he is telling them that they are about to make ~~true~~ their fondest dream come true. He is telling them in effect; "this is the day all of you have longed for, and planned for so long and hard. This is the big dream about to come true." He says, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live."

Moses is looking not just across the Jordan to the land on the otherside that can be seen. His eyes are set upon the future horizon, where he can see their life being lived in peace and happiness, or in sorrow and sadness. He is seeing a vision that is not being seen by his people. He is seeing big dreams, and those dreams can become a reality for all of them, but only if they are willing to choose to follow the Lord.

The choice of life that Moses is offering is to live the life that is centered upon God. It is a nice big dream that I am sure probably met with acceptance by some, but was ridiculed and laughed about by many others. I can picture some of the cynical fellows among these Israelites, standing in the background while Moses is making this speech, and poking one another and saying, "Get him. Boy talk about giving us a snow job, why he isn't even going across with us and he is telling us of these big dreams of his." Now there is no evidence to support my thinking, but if we look at the results that are evident by their turning from God throughout the remainder of their history, we can very well believe that there were quite a few of their number who were unwilling to dream with their leader.

But if a fellow is going to dream, he may as well dream big, it doesn't cost any more. Down through history many men have dreamed big dreams. We could name many of them. Edison and Beethoven were two men who were deaf, and yet they heard and made music beyond the comprehension of others with good ears. Martin Luther was afflicted with serious physical illnesses, and yet this never stopped him from writing and telling of the love of God.

But each one had dreams, big dreams, and it was those dreams that motivated them and cause them to accomplish the things they did. Do you have dreams? Do you have big dreams? I hope so. I am sure that if I were to ask any of you what your dreams are I would get many answers. If we were to ask Ralph Cooper what his dreams are, he would probably tell us, "to have his choir sing in perfect pitch and harmony. To sing like the very angels of God, lifting their hearts and their voices in praise to Him." If we were to ask Mrs. Collins what her dreams were, she would probably tell us, "to use her ten talented fingers to play the organ perfectly in helping to lead the worship of God.

~~Mart~~ Ask any person of this congregation who is involved in doing any work in it what his or her dream is, and they will tell you it is to do the very best job they can at whatever they are doing. Martin Luther King in his famous speech in Washington D.C. said, "I have a dream."

He is not the only one to have a dream, for I have one too, My dream concerns this congregation, and this church. I have a dream that one day I will see this church filled to overflowing every Sunday. I have a dream that the majority of the congregation will be involved in the work of this church and not just a handful. I have a dream that all of the congregation will be tithing and giving the 10% to the Lord that is rightfully due Him from each of us. I have a dream that the influence of this church will be felt and known throughout all of Butler and Butler County and the counties adjacent to it us.

Big dreams? Sure they are, but they can come true. Have you

ever approached Butler from Route 8 North at night? Or from Route 68, or South Main Street at night? If you have you know what I am talking about when I say that it looks like a miniature village that should be placed under a Christmas tree somewhere. With all of the lights twinkling and burning in each house, it is really beautiful.

But coming into Butler several times, and seeing the lights of all the houses, reminded me of this story of Moses and his speech to the Israelites. In my mind's eye I was looking out over the city and thinking of the dream, of the vision that Moses had. I thought of Moses standing looking at Butler at night and saying to the city, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live." I thought of each individual house and of its occupants. I wondered in my mind how many of the people in many of those homes have never heard of Jesus Christ. I wondered how many of them go to bed each night and put out that light that I was seeing, to lie down to sleep after another day of not finding what they had need of to satisfy that restless longing in their hearts. And how they would arise the next day to greet another day of searching for the peace that cannot come except through Jesus Christ.

I wondered how many of these people had never been reached, not because we do not have enough churches, but simply because the effort has not been made.

This is my biggest dream, to reach the unreached of Butler and the surrounding area. It may sound impossible and many of you may think it is, but with prayer, and planning, and work, it can be done. But it takes a vision to do it. Solomon tells us in Proverbs, that, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." You and I must catch the visions, that God has for us. I firmly believe that God has been leading me in this direction, and this is my vision. But it must become the visions of all of you as well. For me to have the vision only, is to invite no growth, no

spiritual attainment, and to have instead stagnation. We all know that this is one of our problems here at this time. It is no secret, and there is no sense believing that it is. We are on dead center and are unable to move right or left. It becomes the task of not only me, but the task of all of us to get the momentum going again.

This past Wednesday evening your elected Church Council took what could very well be the most vital step that could be taken in this direction. The council voted and approved the sending of the pastor and a layman to attend a week long school on Evangelism in Fort Lauderdale Florida in May. This program is one that has been used in churches throughout the nation, and is one that could change the entire complexion of this church. We need to pray for God's blessing upon the pastor and a layman as they endeavor to become involved in a vital program such as this.

But May is a few months away, and so we are concerned with the months until then. Well, let me assure you these months will not be wasted in just waiting for the school session in May. I have some ideas and I intend to implement a few in these next few months. But again I stress that we need a vision in order to succeed. We cannot just let the pastor do all of the thinking for us, nor can we expect him to have all of the answers. If any of you have suggestions that you would like to make to better our church in any way, please submit them to me or to Bea Tait or turn them in to the office. If you would like to consult with me about anything that may improve our church, please do not hesitate to contact me, and let's arrange to talk about it.

This past week I spent two days with Rev. Cooper serving Communion to the shut-ins. It was an enjoyable two days, and in many respects made me more acutely aware of the need for visiting in the homes. I intend to instigate a program of home visitation, and strive to reach our members in this way. Again, you can help by your prayers, and your concern.

My prayer, along with my dreams is that we as a congregation and as a people, can catch the vision of a vital, alive, growing, worshiping,

God fearing, Bible believing, working church of Jesus Christ, here at St. Paul's. Your prayers daily added to mine can make this become a reality.
each
Let us catch the vision of big dreams. "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live."

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 13, 1974
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
PATTY BASEHORE, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "Nocturne" FIELD

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 1 "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!"

*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST HOLY AND MERCIFUL FATHER, WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND CONFESS BEFORE THEE; OUR SINFUL NATURE PRONE TO EVIL AND SLOTHFUL IN GOOD; AND ALL OUR SHORTCOMINGS AND OFFENSES. THOU ALONE KNOWEST HOW OFTEN WE HAVE SINNED; IN WANDERING FROM THY WAYS; IN WASTING THY GIFTS; IN FORGETTING THY LOVE. BUT THOU, O LORD, HAVE PITY UPON US; WHO ARE ASHAMED AND SORRY FOR ALL WHEREIN WE HAVE DISPLEASED THEE. TEACH US TO HATE OUR ERRORS; CLEANSE US FROM OUR SECRET FAULTS; AND FORGIVE OUR SINS FOR THE SAKE OF THY DEAR SON. AND O MOST HOLY AND LOVING FATHER; HELP US WE BESEECH THEE; TO LIVE IN THY LIGHT AND WALK IN THY WAYS; ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PSALM 115

HYMN No. 476 "COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "SHOW ME!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD" STAINER

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "OFFERTOIRE" MARTIN

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 282 "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS!"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE "PONTIFICAL" HIGGINS

----- * CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. RAYMOND COVERT IN MEMORY OF "GRANDPARENTS".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *MONT MACKINNEY, STEVE

VARGO, WALLY FEDER AND CHARLES FENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. HARRY FRY WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. R. L. RICHEY AND MR. PAUL HARPER
BCM/H. MRS. CHARLES McWILLIAMS - BASHLINE HOSP.
NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. BARBARA VARGO AND KAREN KENNEDY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 181.

THURS. - 10:30 - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE - ANNUAL TUREEN

LUNCHEON AT THE HOME OF MRS. SANDY SHEPPECK.

MONDAY - 7:00 - CHURCH AND MINISTRY AND OFFICERS WILL MEET TO SET UP COMMITTEES FOR YEARBOOK.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MRS. HARRY WEETER.

FRIDAY - 7:00 SHARP - THE ARC WILL HOLD A BOWLING PARTY AT FAMILY LANES.

RECEPTION FOR REV. AND MRS. RALPH LINK AND FAMILY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE THIS MORNING IN THE UNDERCROFT. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COME AND WELCOME THEM TO OUR CHURCH - WE ARE GLAD THEY ARE HERE.

THE CONGREGATIONAL DINNER IS SET FOR FEBRUARY 3RD, AT 5:30. WE EXPECT A GOOD ATTENDANCE SINCE ALL THE BIG FOOTBALL GAMES WILL BE OVER. THE YEARBOOKS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THIS TIME AND THERE WILL BE A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING TO GO OVER THE BOOK. OTHER SURPRISES ARE IN STORE - SO COME OUT AND FELLOWSHIP WITH THE OTHERS FROM YOUR CHURCH.

Welcome all visitors; sign book-KATHY GROSS
Will not greet this AM after ben. have bap'tisms.
No YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

man cannot create from scratch like God
3rd chap Exodus commissioning of Moses by God
God asks God, "If I come to the people of Israel
and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent
me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?'
what shall I say to them?"

Moses is asking, Who are you God?

God answers, "I am who I am."

By stating I AM, God leaves no room for doubt who

He is the omnipotent, all powerful
Supreme being to end all supreme beings.

He tells Moses, "Tell my people that I am has sent
you to them."

This implies the authority not to be questioned.

I AM enuf of answer for people.

This who God is, THE I AM.

The ALL IN ALL, God & creator in full author & maj
esty. The authority over all & in all.

This may not answer all quest, but partial explan
to anyone say Show Me.

EXAMPLE COLLEGE XPIAN & ATHEISTS

What is God.

When God gave commands Moses said, "I am the Lord
your God," went on to say jealous God, & not have
other Gods before Him.

Does not want us to share allegiance with us
Wants us love Him, serve Him, worship Him. only

Deut 6:4 & 5, Orthodox Jewish prayer Shema,

Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and you
shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might."

Perhaps we recog as new command given Js in NT

In any event prayer remind worshiper what God is,
and what duty to Him is.

I personally not believe many repetit prayers.

have tendency become lip service, minds off elsewhere
What do tonite, is roast burn, what wear afternoon
Not worship, merely robot or automaton.

Jews had good idea with prayer, if prayed sincerely
& earnestly can help overcome other gods, like money
greed, selfishness, envy, cars, stocks, bonds etc.
Many gods can creep in if not careful

Js said God spirit, they worship, must worship spirit
not only what God, but how come to Him. & truth

Can only have communion with God when in harmony

"Show Me!"

Text Psalm 115:2,

"Why should the nations say, 'Where is our God?'"

Missouri license plates, "Show me state."

People supposedly unbleieving, must see to believe.

Questionable, whether true or not

People from Missouri, no more unbelieving than other
states, nations, or people biblical times.

115th Psalm David's answer to unbelief of his day.

Surrounding nations pagan and unbleieving

Text above.

Show me your God. Let me see so I can believe.

People today asking same thing

peop want answers, want proof

no longer can pass off serious quest, with out
dated, outmoded answer God is in heaven.

David did this, & I sure peop of his day wanted
further proof.

We live age of enlightenment, no longer able
satisfy SS answers.

peop want to know.

7 or 8 yrs God is dead controversy is

Butler Businessmen billboard, Our God alive sorry xxx
about yours.

traveled Mercer Easter Sun. church bulletingboard

"God is alive today."

If theory did noth else, made peop aware those
standing sidelines saying, Show Me, let me see Go

Every church fathers to overcome & counteract doubts,
misgivings, heresies, formulated Apost & Nicene Creeds

Each Sunday repeat words, I believe in God Father

Almighty maker of heaven and earth.

This affirm should enable us answer quest. exist of
should be able defend belief

Naturally not able answer all quest, but can come

up with pretty good answers Who God, What God,
Where God, when someone say, Show Me.

Who is God asked by man since creation

Man always worshiped something, someone as creator
Most pagan rel. worship many gods.

Man and Jew worship one God

In Gen. read, In beg. God crested heaven & earth.

This show God creator

God create from nothing, man cannot, must take
existing elements & mixes t

4/
Does all this prove where God is?
Does all this prove Who He is?
Is all of this prove what He is?

Of course not.

The real importance lies in not who, what & where of
i, but the question, "Do I know Him?"

All questions answered someday when we go to be with
Him

But in meantime, He as near as breath
We can take Him with us wherever we go, but must
want him in our lives before this is possible.

The only way to answer the question of Show Me, is by
our individual lives.

It all comes down to the simple fact of,
"Can anyone see God in me?"

And this is question all must ask of selves personally
as we look to God and say to Him, "Show Me Lord, that
You are in me, and let me show You to others."

3/
Cannot be of unlike spirit & be in touch
Cannot be evil & expect blessing
Must try be righteous & pure, then can come to God
& come to us

When man strives do God's will, then man can meet God
God knows we sinful by nature, & not perfect as He
If try be right, can have communion & Hewith us

Story Nancy small girl, out walk, night look at stars
Point with one little finger, "IS God up there?"
How tell 5,6 yr old in words he, she understand?

Tried tell simply, God in here, heart.

Eyes big, "Is He really Daddy?"

Had tell her cannot see but dwells in us more than
sky
To question where God, He here in town
in this church, & in us.

Maybe shock find God in some peop we know, perhaps
can be seen if we look for Him not

Peop Js time wanted know bout God

They asked He answer if see Him, seen God.

This may been consolation those people, but what of
millions before, or millions after have not seen Js
To believe unseen very difficult to say least.

This what call faith.

This what asked believe, believe in God.

We accept this many areas of our lives

Can any tell me what electricity looks like? & is it
really in wires heat water, light lites, cook food?

Of course can't, but does that mean not there?

Just grab bare wire & find out.

To explain is impossible. So with God

Where He is not all that important.

Important thing is we believe.

Russian cosmonauts returned orbiting, no see God
Col John Glenn on orderliness of space, "Could all of
this have just happened? Was this an accident that
someone tossed up a bunch of flotsam and jetsam, and
it suddenly started making these orbits of its own
accord? I cannot believe that is true. I think this
is a definite plan. This is one big thing in space
that shows me there is a God, some power that put all
of this into orbit and keeps it there. It wasn't
just an accident."

He doesn't say he met God up there.

Or does he say he saw Him.

But he implies in all this he saw hand of God in
sunrises & sunsets, looking at earth from vantage
in space. This diff. between believe and unbelieve

Show Me!

Text: Exodus 33:18 "Moses said, 'I pray Thee, show me Thy glory.'"

Perhaps you have seen the license plates of cars from Missouri, that proclaim, "The show me state." People from this state are supposedly more unbelieving and must be shown before belief sets in.

Whether this is true or not is questionable, but the people of Missouri are no different than the people of any other state, or any nation, nor in fact are we any different than the people of Biblical times when it comes to unbelief.

In the chapter preceeding the one which we read for Scripture, the people ~~understand~~ awaited the arrival of Moses from Mount Sinai and when he did not come back they implored Aaron to make them Gods to lead them from that place. So Aaron made a golden calf for them to worship. ^{FOR THIS} God wanted to destroy the people ~~for their sin~~, but Moses interceded for them and God spared them. Moses, berated the people for their sin and gathered those who wished to continue together again to resume their journey. During the absence of Moses the people had approached Aaron and had told him, "Show me, a God that I may see him and worship him. Show me that this journey is worth while and we will not all be utterly destroyed and doomed to die in this wilderness."

At the return of Moses he once again had to go to God and to ask for proof that he was God. Moses said, "I pray thee, show me thy glory." Time after time in the wanderings of the people of Israel the cry went up to God, "Show me thy glory, that I may believe it is you." Give us proof that you are who you say you are."

When Jesus arrived on the scene, the unbelief was still there. The Pharisees and the Sadducees came to him and asked for a sign from heaven. The answer given was that they could foretell the weather by the appearance of the sky and the wind and yet they asked for a sign. In all of his ministry people kept asking, "Are you the Messiah, the

promised one to deliver us?" Are you really the son of God? Even one of his disciples said, "Show me and I will believe."

To these doubts the Lord has answered time after time. To Moses he answered in person. To many others he answered through his ~~servants~~. The Psalmist writes, "He has shown his people the power of his works," and night unto night showeth knowledge". The prophet Micah writes, "He has showed you O man what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love ~~many~~ kindness and to walk humbly with your God."

The angel spoke at the birth of Christ, "And this shall be a sign to you, you shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Jesus at the end of his ministry said that he would come again on the clouds and this would be ~~A~~ sign from God. Paul wrote, "And I will show you a still more excellent way," and "Behold I will show you a mystery." Each of the writers of the New Testament speak of Jesus as being shown to mankind as the Saviour by God.

Yet with all of this testimony from God, man still says today, "Show me!" Show me that there is such a thing as a God who cares about me. Prove to me that it was for me that Christ died and show me that because of me it was necessary.

So we go into the explanation of it, "Well you see a long time ago there were these two people that God first created and they were living in this wonderful garden, and this snake walks up to them and tempts them to do wrong." And the average man answers, "Oh sure, a snake that walked and we are sinners because of this." "Me a sinner. You must be joking. I come to church only to worship God and not because I am a sinner. Why that is impossible." And so the ~~old~~ age old quest continues of trying to make mankind realize that first, last and always we are sinners. Paul says, "We have all come short of the glory of God." Because of this it is very presumptuous for us to even stand here this

morning and to even imagine that we can be made righteous in the sight of God. But this is what ~~Christ~~ Christ did for us. He accepted our sin, our guilt, and he took it upon his sinless life and gave himself in sacrifice for us. This is what God did out of his extreme love for his creation, and yet we have the audacity to stand before him and ask for him to, "Show me!"

Norman MacLeod who was a minister to Queen Victoria, once remarked that he could sum up everything that religion meant to him in one sentence, "There is a Father in Heaven who loves us, a Brother Saviour who died for us, A Spirit who helps us to be good, and a Home where we shall meet at last."

I think that we have all probably seen the painting entitled "The Light of The World," at one time or another. It depicts Jesus, standing outside ~~a~~ a closed door, holding a lantern in one hand and knocking with the other. He is dressed in a white robe, and a crown of thorns encircle his head. There is the glow of a halo about his head. His eyes look as though they are seeing the present, but are also looking and seeing off into the future. All the details of the painting are in vivid perspective. The door is hanging on rusty hinges and is covered with thorny brambles of long years of growth, which is symbolic of the hearts of men.

But the ~~xxx~~ story behind the painting is that Holman Hunt the artist, after completing the painting was asked by a friend, why the door did not have ~~xx~~ a handle on it. To the inquirer it was a mistake the artist had made. But Mr. Hunt explained that had there been ^{would} a handle on the door Christ could have entered and there ^{would} have been no need for him to have knocked. ^{no} This was a door that could only be opened from the inside.

And Mr. Hunt was right. The salvation of every man depends not upon Christ, but upon the man himself. Each man must open the door of

his own heart to Jesus. I cannot do it for you and you cannot do it for me. If we are waiting for some opportune time to do it, or if we are waiting for some marvelous experience such as we read about and hear, we may wait forever. If we are waiting for Christ to burst ~~is~~ through the door of our hearts we are waiting in vain. Each one of us individually must open that door, and we must admit that we are the sinners Christ died for. We must ~~each one~~ realize that God showed his love through Christ, and when we stand back and say, "Show me" we are speaking the words of a fool, for God did indeed, "Show me" and all of mankind.

^{PAINTING} Holman Hunt was not a devout believer in Christ when he started ~~this painting~~. The Light of The World. But when he finished it he wrote on the back of the canvas, for no one else to see, "Pass me not by, Lord." Through his artistry he found Christ, or was he found by Christ?

The jailer in the prison where Paul was being kept, asked the question, "What must I do to be saved?" And the answer Paul gave was, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household. This is something that has somehow become circumvented in ~~many cases~~ the lives of many people and in the organized church itself. People are calling for the re-awakening of the church and the renewal of its members and in many instances those in the church do not know what to do or where to turn.

(Illustration by late Cardinal Richard Cushing on Renewal)

This is what must come about in our lives and in the life of the church if we are to be the proper people of God. The Saviour of all must be lifted up in every church and in every heart of every member of the church. ^{AND} WE must each one come to the realization that we are sinners, ~~but that~~ through Christ we can have forgiveness, but this forgiveness is not an automatic thing and requires our confession of it to him.

"Show Me!"

Text: Psalm 115:2, "Why should the nations say, 'Where is our God?'"

Perhaps you may have seen the license plates of cars from Missouri and may have noticed the slogan, "The show me state." People from this state are supposedly more unbelieving and must be shown before belief sets in. Whether this is true or not is questionable. But the people from Missouri are no different than the people of any other state, or of any other nation, nor are any of us any different than the people of biblical times when it comes to unbelief.

~~David writes in the 115th Psalm~~

In the 115th Psalm we read of David's answer to the unbelief of his day. The nations surrounding ~~the~~ the Israelites were pagan nations and they must have questioned the existence of God many times in many different ways. Thus David asks the question, "Why should the nations say, 'Where is their God?'" In other words they are saying Show me your God. Let me see Him so I may believe."

People today are asking the same questions. We are living in an age of acute scepticism. People want answers. People want proof for things. No longer can we pass off serious questions with an outdated and outmoded answer such as God is in heaven, and expect people to swallow this with no other questions. David answered this way, and I am sure that the people of his day asked for further proof as well. This is an age of enlightenment and no longer may we satisfy the curious with Sunday School answers. People want to know.

About 7 or 8 years ago the church and church people were involved in the God is Dead controversy. Along about that time the Butler Businessmen had a billboard that proclaimed, "Our God is alive, sorry about yours." Perhaps some of you remember it. I can recall traveling to Mercer on an Easter Sunday, and seeing on a church bulletin board the words, "God is Alive Today." If this theory did nothing else, it made people aware that there are those who are standing on the sidelines saying, "Show me, let me see your God."

The early church fathers in order to overcome the serious doubts and misgivings of those outside the church as well as to counteract the

heresies within the church, formulated the Apostles and the Nicene Creed. Each Sunday we repeat the words, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and Earth." Being able to make this affirmation, should enable any of us to be able to answer serious questioning of the existence of God. And indeed we should be able to defend our belief.

Naturally we cannot answer all questions in this realm, but we can come up with some pretty good answers as to Who God is, What God is, and where He is, when someone ~~asks~~ says, "Show Me."

Who is God has been asked by man since the dawn of creation. Man has always worshiped something or someone as the ruler of the universe and as the creator of everything. Most pagan religions have many gods which they worship and many are cruel and unloving. But the Christian and the Jew ~~alike~~ are alike in the respect that we believe in one God. We

read in Genesis, "In the beginning, God created heaven and earth." Then follows the remainder of the creation story. We know from this that God is a creator. In this realm we can separate God and man, for God can create out of nothing, and man can only take the elements and chemicals that are already in existence and from this make something. Man cannot create from scratch as God can.

In the 3rd chapter of Exodus, we read of the commissioning of Moses, by God to lead the people to the promised land. Moses questions God and says, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them??" In other words Moses is asking, "Who are you God?" And God answers, "I am who I am." By stating that He is the I Am, God leaves no room for doubt as to who He is. He is the omnipotent, the all powerful, the supreme being to end all supreme beings. He tells Moses, "Tell my people that I am has sent you to them." This implies that the authority is not to be questioned. That I Am should be enough of an answer to these people. This is who God is, He is the I Am. He is the all in all. The God and creator in full authority and majesty.

The authority over all and in all. Now this may not answer all of the questions or doubts about Who God is, but it is at least a partial explanation we can share with anyone who say, "Show Me."

What is God? When He gave the commandments to Moses, He said, "I am the Lord your God," and He went on to say that He was a jealous God, and we are to have no other God's before Him. He does not want to share us with any other allegiance. He wants us to love Him to honor Him and to worship Him, and rightly so,

In Deuteronomy 6:4 & 5 we find recorded a prayer that is used daily by the Orthodox Jews. "Hear O Israel the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might." Perhaps we recognize this as the new commandment that Jesus gave in the New Testament. But in any event this prayer is to remind the worshiper ~~that~~ what God is, and what his duty to him is.

I personally do not believe in too many repetitious prayers, because a steady repetition becomes merely a habit. A mere lip service, while our minds have drifted off somewhere or someplace else. Perhaps we begin to think what we are going to do tonight, or whether the roast is burning in the oven at home, or what shall I do this afternoon. This type of thing then ceases to be worship and merely becomes something done like a robot or an automaton.

I think the Jews had a very good idea with this prayer and if it is prayed sincerely and earnestly, can help us to overcome the other gods that can creep into our lives. The gods of money, of greed, of selfishness, of envy of others, gods of cars, or houses, or prestige or what have you. There are many gods that can come into our lives if we are not careful.

Jesus said, "God is a spirit and they who worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth." He is telling us not only what God is, but how we must come to Him. We can only have communion with God, when

we are in harmony with Him. We cannot be of an unlike spirit and be in touch with Him. We cannot be evil and expect His blessing. We must try to be righteous and pure, and then we can come to God and He will come to us.

When man strives to do God's will, then man can meet God. God knows that we are sinful by nature and cannot be perfect as He is. But if we try to be right, we can have communion with God and He with us.

When Nancy was a small girl, we were walking around the yard in Renfrew one night. The night was one of those beautiful summer nights, where the sky was full of stars, and we were looking at them. She asked me in that simple and endearing way as only children can, "Daddy, is God really up there?", as she pointed with one of her little fingers. How do you tell a 5 or 6 year old child in words he or she can understand where God is? I tried to tell her as simply as possible that God is here, in your heart. She looked at me and her got real big and she said, "Is he really Daddy?" Well, I had to tell her that we could not really see Him, but He dwells in us more than He does in the sky. To the question where is God? we can answer that he is here in this town. He is here this morning, and He is here in us. Now this may come as ~~as~~ a shock because maybe we cannot picture God as dwelling in some people we know, and perhaps He isn't. But He can be seen if we look for Him.

The people of Jesus' time wanted to know about God. They asked Him, and He answered that if they saw Him, they had seen God, because He and the Father were one. This may have been some consolation for those people, but what of the millions who ~~have~~ lived before Jesus and never saw ^{Jesus} ~~him~~, and the millions who have lived since, and never saw Him? To believe in something you have never seen is very difficult to say the least. This is what we call faith. This is what we are asked to believe when we believe in God. Yet we accept this type of belief in many areas of our lives. Can any of you tell me what electricity looks like, and if it is really in wires that light lights, and heat water, and cook food? Of course you can't, but does

that mean it is not there? Just grab a bare wire and find out. But to explain it is impossible. So it is with God. Where He is is not all that important. The important thing is that we believe in Him.

When one of the Russian cosmonauts returned from orbiting the earth, he said that he had not seen God up there. Col. John Glenn ~~stated~~ commenting upon the orderliness of space said, "Could all of this have just happened? Was this an accident that someone tossed up a bunch of flotsam and jetsam, and it suddenly started making these orbits of its own accord? I cannot believe that's really true. I think this was a definite plan. This is one big thing in space that shows me there is a God, some power that put all of this into orbit and kept it there. It wasn't just an accident."

Now he doesn't say that he met God up there. Nor does he say that he saw Him. But he does imply in all of this that he saw the hand of God in the stars, in the sunrises and the sunsets, and looking at earth from his vantage point in space. This is the difference between a believer and a non-believer.

Does all of this prove where God is? Does it prove what He is? Does it prove who He is? Of course not. The real importance lies, not in the who, what and where of God, but in the question, "Do I know Him?" All of our questions concerning Him will be answered someday, when we each go to be with Him. But in the meantime He is as near as our next breath. We can take Him with us wherever we go, but we must want Him in our lives before this is possible.

The only way to answer the question of "Show Me," is by our individual lives. It all comes down to the simple fact of, "Can anyone see God in me?" And this is the question we must ask of ourselves, personally, as we look to God and say to Him, "Show Me, Lord, that you are in me, and let ~~others~~ me show You to others. Let us pray.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 20, 1974
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
BILL WATTERSON, STEVE BASEHORE, - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "PRELUDE IN E-FLAT MINOR" BACH

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 21 "JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE"

*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL
FATHER, FROM WHOM COMETH DOWN EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT
GIFT; WE YIELD THEE PRAISE AND THANKS FOR ALL THY
MERCIES. THY GOODNESS HATH CREATED US; THY BOUNTY
HATH SUSTAINED US; THY FATHERLY DISCIPLINE HATH
CHASTENED AND CORRECTED US; THY PATIENCE HATH BORNE
WITH US; THY LOVE HATH REDEEMED US. GIVE US A
HEART TO LOVE AND SERVE THEE, AND ENABLE US TO SHOW
OUR THANKFULNESS FOR ALL THE GOODNESS AND MERCY THOU
HAST CONFERRED BY GIVING UP OURSELVES TO THY SERVICE,
AND CHEERFULLY SUBMITTING IN ALL THINGS TO THY
BLESSED WILL. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 1:35-45

HYMN No. 261 "BEFORE THE CROSS OF JESUS"

ORGAN MEDITATION

"MR. CLEAN!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD" WOMEN'S CHORUS

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "OFFERTOIRE"

BEHR

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 271 "O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "POSTLUDE"

NORDMAN

*CONGREGATION STANDING

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED
BY MR. & MRS. NICHOLAS NOWACH IN MEMORY OF
"LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY: *PAUL RIEMER, DARYL TAIT,
JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR.

MR. & MRS. RALPH KILLEAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT
THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. RAYMOND
COVERT AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 226.

MONDAY - 7:30 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. R. L. RICHEY-428; MR. PAUL

601-HARPER-434; MR. RAYMOND MILLER-434; MRS. BETTY

FILSON-359; MRS. MARY JANE WEISENSTEIN-567 -

(BABY GIRL). MRS. GOTTA-441

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ARE STILL IN NEED OF
PLASTIC LIDS FROM MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE (ANY SIZE).

IF YOU HAVE ANY VASES YOU DON'T NEED ANYMORE -
THEY ARE NEEDED AT THE BUTLER HOSPITAL. YOU MAY
LEAVE THEM ON THE COUNTER IN THE KITCHEN AND THEY
WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF.

RESERVE - FEB. 3, - CONGREGATIONAL DINNER - 5:30 -

THE YEARBOOKS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THIS MEETING.
COME OUT AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS FROM OUR
CHURCH.

WE WELCOME THOSE VISITING WITH US TODAY. PLEASE
SIGN THE GUEST REGISTER ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE
SANCTUARY.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - TOPITE 7:00 P.M.

Naaman goes back to Elisha & says 5:15
tries to give presents

At ~~Elisha~~ Elisha says 5:16
And Naaman tries to insist

So Naaman asks for 2 mules burden of earth 5:17
He promises will not worship other god except God of Israel

When worships Rimmon will only be lip service.
It was believed to worship God, must worship on soil of Israel.

So actually would be ON THE SOIL OF ISRAEL
Naaman left Syria, diseased, worried about station of life, about all of things may come to pass if diseased

Came to Israel seeking miracle
instead received injunction to do something seemed foolish.

Expected words be said over him, instead was xangered
1. that prophet did not come personally
2. told to do childish almost ridiculous thing

But when listened words of his servant, & took necessary steps. was healed

Isn't this required of you & me?

No substitute for old river Jordan

Modern man looks at hot springs many parts world.

Many go Lourdes France, many others shrine Canada
All seek healing some find, many do not.

Naaman conquered pride, stifled vanity
& proud soldier he was went & dipped in Jordan &
"flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

Still pride & vanity keeps modern Naaman from blessing received by ancient Syrian

If we can forget pride, & vanity, & put of intellectual attitudes, & critical looks at church, & go down into stream of life giving gift of God, then our flesh can indeed be restored like that of a little child, & we can become clean.

If each week bathe souls in worship of God

Dip into God's word, The Bible

spend honest time dipping into fervent prayer,
then miracle can happen for us as for Naaman

We tell criminal to come clean. perhaps as Christians to walk daily should say make clean breast of it, & God will make clean.

"Mr. Clean!"

Text: II Kings 5:14,

"So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

Naaman commander of Syrian army of King Aram

Very courageous, held high esteem by king

Thru valor & courage Syria won over enemies

One thing wrong Naaman, he was leper

To be leper hindrance, & set person apart

automatically cut off from others

Naaman concerned with his disease

Syrian army captured Jewish girl in raid on Is. villa

She was servant of Naaman wife

In conversation said 5:3

Naaman wife told him, he tells king

king says, "Go, and I will send letter king of Israel

Naaman goes, takes presents 5:5 about 80,000 dollars

presents letter to king.

letter read 5:6

King displeased with letter 5:7

king looked upon as divine, worker of miracles

Fortunately Elisha heard of king's dismay

Sends message to king and inquires why he upset,

Says, "send to me, that he may know prophet in Is."

5:8

Naaman drives up to door Elisha with servants & char.

Elisha does not come out, sends servant.

Servant tells Naaman, 5:10

Naaman angry because servant & not Elisha 5:11,12

Saying, Are not Damascus rivers as good as Jordan?

ancient story Mohammed as youth went Damascus in caravan.

Came to summit of Southern hills.

Saw view of oasis of Damascus, orchards, blossoms.

Wrapped face in mantle, turned away, said, "Man may enter only 1 paradise & that para. above."

Arabs called Damas, oasis "The garden of the world."

Naaman in rage because of treatment by Elisha

Servant explains, 5:13

5:14

Naaman came to Israel seeking cleansing & found it.
He stepped into Jordan a diseased man & stepped out
as original Mr. Clean.

~~XX~~
~~XX~~

Invitation for any not sure of relationship with
Christ to see me in office after church.

Will be glad to speak to anyone about this

Let us come to the river Jordan which is Christ,
and seek this cleansing in our lives.

"Mr. Clean!"

PR 121
Sermon #3
Ralph C. Link

Text: II Kings 5:14, "So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." R.S.V.

Naaman was the commander-in-chief of the Syrian army during the days of King Aram. He was a very great man in his nation and was held in very high esteem by the king. It was through his valor and courage that Syria had won out over her enemies, But there was one thing wrong with Naaman, he was a leper. To be a leper was not only a hindrance to anyone, but in certain areas it automatically cut that person off from any contact with healthy people. So Naaman was concerned with his disease.

When the Syrian army had made a raid on a village of Israel, they had captured a little Jewish maid and brought her back to Syria. The maid was a servant of Naaman's wife. In a conversation one day with the wife, she remarked, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman's wife told him of this conversation and he in turn went to King Aram and related to him what the Jewish maid had said concerning his disease. King Aram told him, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So Naaman departed for Israel taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten festal garments. The silver and gold amounted to approximately \$80,000. He arrived at the court of the king of Israel and presented there the letter sent by King Aram. The letter read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

When the king of Israel read this he rent his clothes, and began to pace the floor nervously. He said, "Am I God, to kill and make

alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy?

Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

What he was really saying was that in ancient Israel the king was believed to have been divine, and he was looked upon as a miracle worker in the healing of sickness and disease. He was really asking, "Am I a prophet or a servant of God?," since the prophets at the time of this writing were the ones who did the miracle work of God. He was also suspicious that King Aram had tricked him, and if Naaman were not cured by him, then Aram would have an excuse to attack Israel.

But fortunately for the king of Israel, Elisha heard of the arrival of Naaman and of the king's dismay over his visit. Elisha sent a message to the king and inquired why he was so upset, and why he rent his clothes in dismay. He wrote, "Let him come to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman drives up to the door of Elisha with his horses and chariots. But Elisha does not come out to meet him, but sends one of his messengers instead. The messenger delivers the message from Elisha which was, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." This angers Naaman and as he speeds away from Elisha's gate he mutters, "Behold, I thought he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?"

He is asking, "What's so special about the river Jordan? The rivers of Damascus are much calmer and prettier."

There is an ancient story that Mohammed in his youth went to Damascus in a caravan, but when he came to the summit of the southern

hills and saw the unexpected view of the oasis of Damascus, with its orchards and its blossoms, he turned away, wrapping his face in his mantle, saying that man may enter one paradise and that paradise was above. The Arabs called the Damascus oasis "The garden of the world."

So Naaman was in a rage because of how he had been treated by Elisha. But one of his servants came to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had commanded you to do some great thing, would you not have done it?" "How much rather, then when he says to you, 'Wash and be Clean'?"

"So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

After this he returned to Elisha and in his presence said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant." But Elisha in refusing it said, "As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will receive none." But Naaman insisted, and Elisha still refused to accept payment of any kind. Naaman then makes a very strange request when he says, "If not, I pray you, let there be given to your servant two mules burden of earth; for henceforth your servant will not offer burnt offerings or sacrifice to any god but the Lord." He tells Elisha that when he goes into the house of worship of the god Rimmon back home in Syria, he will merely be paying token worship to that god, but will actually only worship the true God of Israel. Elisha tells him, "Go in peace."

What is really taking place in the latter part of this story is that it was believed by the people of the lands surrounding Israel, that God could only be worshipped on the land of Israel. So if they returned to Syria or another country and took some of the soil of

Israel, they could worship the God of Israel, since in effect they would be doing so on soil from Israel.

Naaman had left Syria a diseased man. A man worried about his health, about his station in life, and about all of the things that might come to pass if he remained diseased. He came to Israel seeking a miracle, but instead he received an injunction to do something that seemed foolish. He expected to receive some great formulation by the prophet of God. He expected to have words said over him to heal him, and was angered first of all that the prophet did not come to him personally, and secondly because what he was told was so childish it was almost ridiculous.

But when he listened to the words of one of his servants, and took the necessary requirement for healing, he was in fact healed. And isn't this what is required of you and ^{ME} ~~us~~? There is no substitute for the old river Jordan. Modern man can look at hot springs in many parts of the world for healing and be disappointed. He may go to Lourdes, France or to that shrine in Canada, seeking healing and never find it. Naaman conquered his pride, stifled his vanity, and proud soldier that he was, went down and dipped seven times into the Jordan, and "His flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

It is still pride and vanity that keeps many a modern Naaman from receiving the blessing that came to that ancient Syrian. If we can forget our pride and our vanity, and put off our intellectual attitudes, and our critical looks at the church and go down into the stream of the life giving gift of God, then our flesh can indeed be "restored like the flesh of a little child, and we can become clean." If each week we can bathe our souls in a real worship in God's house, if each day we can dip into God's Word, the Bible, if we can spend some honest time dipping into fervent prayer, then the miracle can be

wrought for us, as truly as it was for Naaman.

This is in effect what Jesus was saying when he said, "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." He was saying, "I am the Jordan and all of the other shrines of the world. Come dip in me, and be clean."

When a suspected criminal is questioned by the authorities, he is admonished to "come clean." He is asked to make a clean breast of it. This is what we should perhaps say to anyone seeking to walk as a Christian daily, "Come clean, make a clean breast of it and God will forgive and make clean."

Naaman came to Israel seeking cleansing and found it. He stepped into the Jordan a diseased man and stepped out as the original "Mr. Clean." Let us come to the river Jordan which is Christ, and seek this cleansing in our lives.

A very good & concise sermon. The language is the development of the theme as well done. The application of the text is good.

"Mr. Clean!"

Text: II Kings 5:14, "So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

Naaman was the commander-in-chief of the Syrian army during the days of King Aram. He was a very great man in his nation and ^{was} held in very high esteem by the king. It was through his valor and courage that Syria had won out over her enemies. But there was one thing wrong with Naaman, he was a leper. To be a leper was not only a hindrance to anyone, but in certain areas it automatically cut that person off from any contact with healthy people. So Naaman was concerned about his disease.

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And so Naaman departed for Israel taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten festal garments. The silver and gold amounted to approximately 80,000 dollars. He arrived at the court of the king of Israel and presented there the letter sent by King Aram. The letter read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of ~~his~~ his leprosy."

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make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy?

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"That he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."

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He is saying, "What's so special about the river Jordan?
The rivers of Damascus are much calmer and cleaner and prettier."
There is an ancient story that Mohammed in his youth went to Damascus in a caravan, but when he came to the summit of the southern hills and

saw the unexpected view of the oasis of Damascus, with its orchards and its blossoms he turned away, wrapping his face in his mantle, saying that man may enter but one paradise and that paradise was above. The Arabs called the Damascus oasis, "The garden of the world."

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"So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

After this he returned to Elisha and in his presence said, "Behold, I know that ~~there~~ there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant." But Elisha in refusing it said, "As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will receive none." But Naaman insisted and Elisha still refused to accept payment of any kind.

Naaman then ~~xx~~ makes a very strange request when he says, "If not, I pray you, let there be given to your servant two mules burden of ~~xxix~~ earth; for henceforth your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the Lord." He tells Elisha that when he goes into the house of worship of the god Rimmon back home in Syria, he will merely be paying token worship to that god but will actually only truly worship the God of Israel. Elisha tells him, "Go in peace."

What is really taking place in the latter part of this story is that it was believed ~~that~~ by the people of the lands surrounding Israel, that God could only be worshiped in the land of Israel. So if they returned to Syria or another country and took some of the soil of Israel, they could worship the God of Israel, since in effect they would be doing so on soil from Israel.

Naaman left Syria, a diseased man. A man worried about his health, about his station in life, and about all of the things that might come to pass if he remained diseased. He came to Israel seeking a miracle, but he found instead an injunction to do something that seemed foolish. He expected to be given some great formulation by this prophet of God. He expected to have words spoken over him to heal him and was angered first of all that the prophet could not come to him personally, and secondly because what he was told was so childish it was almost ridiculous.

But when he listened to the words of one of his own servants, and took the necessary requirement for healing, he was in fact healed. And isn't this what is demanded of you and I? There is simply no substitute for the old river Jordan. Modern man can look at Hot Springs in many parts of the world for healing and be disappointed. He may go to Lourdes France or that shrine in Canada seeking healing and never find it. ~~But when he throws off his pride, stifles his vanity, and dips himself~~ Naaman conquered his pride, stifled his vanity, and proud soldier that he was went down and dipped seven times into the Jordan, and "his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

It is still pride and vanity that keeps many a modern Naaman from receiving the blessing that came to that ancient Syrian. If we can forget our pride and our vanity, and put off our intellectual attitudes, and our critical looks at the church and go down into the stream of the life giving gift of God, then our flesh can indeed "be restored like the flesh of a little child, and we can become clean." If each week we can bathe our souls in a real worship in God's house, if each day we can dip into the Bible, and if we can spend some honest time in prayer, then the miracle will be wrought for us as truly as it was for Naaman.

This is what Jesus was saying when he said, "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." He was saying, "I am the Jordan, come dip in me and be clean."

When a suspected criminal is questioned by the authorities he is admonished to "come clean." To make a clean breast of it, and if he does he is perhaps promised that the law may "go easy on him." This is what we should perhaps say to anyone seeking to walk as a Christian daily, "Come clean", make a clean breast of it in Christ, and God will forgive and go easy on you."

Naaman came to Israel seeking cleansing and found it. He stepped into the Jordan a diseased man, and stepped out for all intents and purposes as the original, "Mr. Clean." Let us come to THE river Jordan, which is Christ, and seek this cleansing in us. Let us pray.

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 27, 1974

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
BILL WATTERSON, STEVE BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "JOYLL" WELY
SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 7 "REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART"

*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, WHO ART RICH IN MERCY TOWARD ALL, WE CONFESS BEFORE THEE: ALL OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER OUR OWN INTERESTS, AND OUR THOUGHTLESSNESS OF OTHERS; OUR NEEDLESS ANXIETIES AND THE TIMIDITIES IN THE FACE OF THY CALLS TO DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY; OUR LOVE OF OLD ERRORS AND OUR DISTRUST OF THE TRUTH WHICH WOULD LEAD US IN NEW WAYS; OUR BLIND CONFIDENCE IN FALSE GODS, THE HIGHWAYS INTO BETTER THINGS WHICH WE BLOCK FOR OTHERS AND FOR OURSELVES BY OUR DESPAIR. PARDON US FOR ALL OUR SINS -- THOSE WE DO NOT KNOW, AND THOSE WE DARE NOT NAME, AND LEAD US INTO THAT NEW LIFE WHICH IS HID WITH CHRIST IN THEE. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: HAGGAI 1: 5-9
LUKE 12: 13-21

HYMN No. 131 "O MASTER WORKMAN OF THE RACE"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "MR. UNCLEAN!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "AMAZING GRACE"

ARR. BY J. NEWTON

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "BERCEUSE IN A"

DELBRUCK

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH SCHOOL OFFICERS

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 32 "SAVIOR, AGAIN TO THY DEAR NAME"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL"

BLAKE

*CONGREGATION STANDING

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MRS. GILBERT HEGINBOTHAM IN MEMORY OF HER "HUSBAND".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *DON KINGSLEY, DAVID

CURTIS, GEORGE NAZARUK, PAUL CAMPBELL.

DEACON AND MRS. RAYMOND COVERT WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 218

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. LINDA McMILLIN

AND MRS. JANE ARMSTRONG.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. RAYMOND MILLER, MRS. R.L. RICHEY,

MRS. BETTY FILSON, MRS. DELORES BOTACCHI, MR. W.W. PFABE

RESERVE NEXT SUNDAY FEB. 3 - 5:30 P.M. - CONGREGATION-

AL DINNER AND MEETING. THE DINNER WILL BE TUREEN

STYLE, BEVERAGE AND DESSERT BEING FURNISHED. ANY

FAMILY WITH MORE THAN TWO IS ASKED TO BRING TWO

TUREENS. REV. COOPER WILL BE RECOGNIZED FOR THE

WORK HE HAS DONE FOR US OVER THE PAST YEAR AND A

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME FOR REV. LINK AND HIS FAMILY.

THE YEARBOOK WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THIS TIME. IF

YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION CALL 287-6568 - ROBERT

KNAUER'S.

THERE WILL BE A PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING - FOR

OLD AND NEW MEMBERS - TUES. - JANUARY 29TH AT

7:00. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE OLD COMMITTEE AS

WELL AS THE NEW ONES ATTEND.

DON'T FORGET OUR PASTOR - RALPH LINK WILL BE

ORDAINED - MARCH 10, 7:30 P.M. IN OUR CHURCH.

NEW SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY - OFFERING 1ST.

Repeat "The last & only thing

3/

RIENDS, WHAT DO YOU VALUE IN LIFE MORE THAN ANYTHING
ELSE?

IS IT YOUR HUSBAND, OR YOUR WIFE?

IS IT YOUR CHILDREN?

YOUR POSSESSIONS?

YOUR VERY LIFE?

HAVE YOU TURNED IT ALL OVER TO YOUR LORD JESUS CHRIST?

WHY NOT CONSIDER IT WELL, & DECIDE TO BE MR. CLEAN

INSTEAD OF MR UNCLEAN?

WHY NOT DO IT NOW? TODAY?

"Mr. Unclean!"

Text: Haggai 1:9b, "Because of my house that lies in ruins, while you busy yourselves each with his own house."

Luke 12:15 "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

In the comic strip "Peanuts" there is a character named "Pig Pen." Pig Pen is the little boy who is continually dirty. I particularly enjoy seeing him on television because there it is that you get the true character of this little fellow. If you have seen it you know what I mean, for when he walks or moves, the dirt ~~just~~ is continually ~~is coming~~ falling from him or swirling around him. What makes it doubly enjoyable for me is the fact that we once had a "pig pen" in the family. No matter how clean and nicely he was dressed, in a very short time he was a dirty little boy. And we remind Lloyd of this from time to time. Last week we talked about a man named Naaman, who was unclean and became clean. Mr. Clean in other words because of the 7 baths he took in the river Jordan to get clean. Well this week, let us look at Mr. Unclean, THE PIG PEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. Mr. Unclean as I call him, was a man named Gehazi. Gehazi was a servant of the prophet Elisha, and the story of him that I will relate is to be found in the latter part of ~~the~~ chapter 5 of II Kings. The story of Mr. Clean or Naaman was taken from the first part of this same chapter.

OF HIS LEPROSY

If you recall, Naaman came to Elisha to be healed, and when he did as he was instructed to do, he was cleansed. In gratitude he tried to present gifts to Elisha but Elisha refused. And so ~~it is~~ ~~we~~ we read that after Naaman has gone but a short distance from Elisha, Gehazi ~~taking~~ seeing all that has taken place, thinks all of this through and sees for himself an opportunity to make gain out of loss. He thinks to himself, "My master has permitted this fellow to

come and to reap a benefit and has not been required to make payment for it. So since my master does not care to collect a reward for his work, I shall go and get the reward instead."

So he runs after the caravan bearing Naaman back to Syria. When the servants of Naaman spot this fellow running after them they inform their master and he orders the caravan to stop. Alighting from his chariot Naaman inquires, "Is all well?" And Gehazi answers, "All is well. My master ~~xxx~~ has sent me to say, 'There have just now come to me from the ~~hills~~ hill country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets; pray give them ~~two talents of silver~~ a talent of silver and two festal garments.'" So Gehazi is not only greedy to get what does not belong to him, but he is a liar as well.

And Naaman answers, "Be pleased to accept two talents." ~~In other words he is willing to give up twice the asking price in gratitude for what happened to him.~~ " And he urged him, and tied up two talents of silver in two bags, with two festal garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they carried them before Gehazi." In other words Naaman is so thankful and grateful for what has been accomplished in his life, that he is willing to give up twice as much as has been asked for. He even supplies his own servants to carry the gifts back to the house of Elisha.

And when they came to the hill, Gehazi took the presents from the servants and put them in the house, and dismissed the servants of Naaman. So Gehazi ~~goes into the house~~ comes to Elisha in the house and Elisha inquires, "Where have you been Gehazi?" And Gehazi answers, "Your servant went nowhere." But Elisha surprisingly answers him, "Did I not go with you in spirit when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, menservants and maidservants?" What he is

~~saying that what must have been a very~~

3

saying, to what must have been a very surprised Gehazi is, "Don't you realize that since I am a prophet of the Lord I am able to see and know things that ordinary people do not know? And I know that you went to Naaman to ask for the presents which do not rightfully belong to you. I know where you have been and I know what kind of an evil, conniving, scheming man you are. Was it your place to seek for yourself gifts and presents that you had no right ~~xxx~~ to be presented to you?"

And Elisha then makes the pronouncement to Gehazi, "Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cleave to you, and to your descendants for ever." And we are told that Gehazi "went out from his presence a leper, as white as snow."

Here is the conclusion of a story that tells of redemption and punishment, A pagan, a believer in other gods, comes to Israel to a prophet of Yahweh, the God of Israel, and ~~finds~~ ^{SEEKING} an miracle and by his faith finds it. While on the other hand an Israelite, ^{GEHAZI} sees an opportunity to have what does not really belong to him and is cursed by it. Naaman becomes Mr. Clean in more ways than one, and Gehazi becomes Mr. Unclean.

In ancient Israel a leper was considered a very unclean person. Anyone who was a leper had to continuously call out, "Unclean, unclean," thus anyone walking near them could cross the street and not be contaminated by them. Anyone being healed of leprosy had to go to the synagogue and present himself to the priest and thus be declared legally clean if such was the case. So here we would see Naaman had he been a Jew, rushing to the synagogue shouting, "I'm clean, I'm clean," while Gehazi would be required to walk about shouting, "Unclean, unclean."

What a contrast in this one chapter of the deeds and actions of two men. But we see in life today the signs of all of this. We see that some people are seeking cleansing and healing of soul and body, and we see people who are trying to take ~~things~~ things that do not

belong to them. We see nations trying to live in peace and we see other nations striving to get what is not rightfully theirs to have. Thus we witness the greed and covetousness all around us.

(Story of Abe Lincoln and two little boys)

Jesus told his followers, "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." He was saying that whatever we have, we should be satisfied with it and not long to have that which is not rightfully ours to have. He was saying that we come into this life with nothing and we shall leave it with nothing. ~~xxx~~ The story is told of Alexander the Great expressing the desire that upon his death, his hands were not to be enclosed in white gloves as was the custom. But rather, he wanted his hands to be left bare, so that all who saw his body as it was being carried out for burial in the funeral procession, would see that he left this world taking nothing with him.

The prophet Haggai said, "You have looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? says the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while you busy yourselves with your own houses, each with ~~your~~ his own house."

What the prophet is saying here is a condemnation of the people of Israel looking after their own selfish interests and neglecting the House of God. They were content to work for themselves and their own needs and desires but were not concerned with working to upbuild ~~the~~ ^{God's} temple House.

Thus we can see that desiring things ~~that~~ we have no right to desire, can be an involvement not only in our private lives, but in our church lives as well. We can become so self-seeking that we can completely neglect the church. Our own little worlds can mean so much to us, that we cannot be bothered with whatever time or money we should spend in building the House of God. We practically say to God, "Don't bother me now, can't you see I'm too busy, and I don't have time to

spare for you, nor money either." This was the indirect attitude of
Jezebel. He was all wrapped up in what he could gain, and was determined
to get it. His desire was for things that he did not deserve nor have
any right to desire.

And because of this he became ~~unclean~~ Mr. Unclean. There
 is a real moral here for all of us. It is the moral that when we seek
our own desires, when we become the victims of wishing and wanting that
which we do not deserve or merit, it is then that we become unclean. We
become like much of the world, for the filth and the dirt of the world
rubs off on our characters and can even infect our very souls.

(Illustration Chinese Gordon)

"The last and only thing that I had in this world that I
valued, I have given over to the Lord Jesus Christ," what a fitting
epitaph for anyone. Friends what do you value in this life more than
anything else? Is it your wife or husband? Your children? Your possessions?
Your very life? Have you turned it over to your Lord Jesus Christ? Why
not consider it well and decide to be Mr. Clean ~~and not unclean~~ instead of
Mr. Unclean. Let us pray.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 3, 1974
BOY SCOUT SUNDAY
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
DENNIS MASTER, PAULA STEPHENSON - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
PRELUDE MUSIC: "PRELUDE IN D" SCARMOLIN
 "MEDITATION" BERWALD

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 50 "STILL, STILL WITH THEE"

*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST HOLY GOD, WHO DOES SEARCH
AND PURIFY THE HEARTS OF MEN: GRANT US TO KNOW OURSELVES
AS WE TRULY ARE; OPEN TO US THE CONDITION OF OUR SOULS;
GIVE US PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS FOR OUR SINS, ENABLE
US WITH STEADFAST RESOLUTION TO AMEND OUR LIVES; DELIVER
US FROM CAPTIVITY TO FALSE THOUGHTS AND EVIL HABITS,
THAT WITH UNITY OF MIND AND PEACE OF CONSCIENCE WE MAY
HAVE OUR FULL RECONCILIATION WITH YOU, AND BE OF THE
BLESSED COMPANY OF ALL YOUR FAITHFUL PEOPLE; THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: EXODUS 14: 1-14

HYMN No. 303 "COME, YE DISCONSOLATE"

*GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "OFFERTOIRE IN B" ARMSTRONG
SCOUT OATH

ACOLYTE PINS PRESENTATION

RECOGNITION OF GOD AND COUNTRY SCOUTS

ANTHEM: "HE TOUCHED ME" BY WILLIAM GAITHER

SOLO - CYNDIE SYBERT

SERMON: "SAFETY GLASSES!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 318 "NEARER, MY GOD TO THEE"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" HEYSER

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED
BY THE CARL HOLLEFREUND, JR. FAMILY IN MEMORY OF
"LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *RAYMOND COVERT,
JOHN REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER.

DEACON AND MRS. DAVID CURTIS WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL
AT THE DOOR TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 188.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. HOMER FILSON (BETTY) AND

MRS. ROGER FERREE (HELEN). - *HEARD*

MRS. R. L. RICHEY IS NOW AT JACK'S CONVALESCENT
HOME IN HARMONY, PA. 16037.

TODAY - 5:30 - CONGREGATION DINNER AND MEETING -

THOSE OF MORE THAN TWO ARE ASKED TO BRING TWO
TUREENS. THE YEARBOOK WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THE
MEETING. BEVERAGE AND DESSERT WILL BE FURNISHED.

THE MEN ARE ASKED TO HELP SET UP TABLE IN THE

UNDERCROFT AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE.

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING.

WED. - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING.

THURS. - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE

HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

ARC SWEETHEART DINNER DANCE WILL BE HELD AT SAXONBURG

FIRE HALL - FEB. 16 - SAT. EVE. AT 7:00 P.M.

CONTACT - ROLAND THOMPSON'S OR CHUCK FENAR'S.

WE HAVE A NEW YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR - CYNDIE SYBERT.

FIRST PRACTICE IS FEBRUARY 10 (NEXT SUNDAY) AT

6:30 P.M.

DON'T FORGET - TONIGHT 5:30 - CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

WELCOME - VISITORS

2/

They had completely forgotten been ill-treated & abused slaves of Egyptians
 not willing to trust God to care for problem at hand
 Moses, man of faith he was, tells them - vs 13,14 (text)
 He telling look toward God, forget looking back to pursuers & Egypt.
 in remainder of chap. read how Moses stretches out rod at command of God; sea divides, they cross sea returns to normal & Egyptians drowned, destroyed
 Thousands years passed since people lived this episode yet human nature not changed significantly.
 People still prone to look back in fear instead ahead in faith.
 When I read incident was reminded as salesman calling industrial plants.
 Before enter plants, given hardhat safety glasses
 Most men here know safety glasses, no need to tell, but for rest, they are special glasses, thick safety glass lens, gismos on sides protect eyes from side.
 Not only protect eyes, make possible work with little fear, & concentrate on ~~work~~ work better
 Today we observe Boy Scout Sunday.
 This day we recognize this organiz., & boys who participate in it.
 But must also think of all youth in general
 We need to be giving all youth safety glasses for their lives.
 We need to be telling them as Moses did, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. The Lord will work for you and you have only to be still."
 We need to instill this not only in Boy Scouts, but in S.S. as well.
 It has been source of amazement to me in past few years that so many of our children do not even know the most simple of Bible stories.
 This is not only sad commentary on UCC curriculum, but on the parents & families as well.
 We are living in society that wants to shift the responsibility in many areas.
 Trend has been & is continuing, that someone else must bear the burden.
 Someone else must take care of our problems
 Someone else must take care of our aged
 Someone else must take care of our sick

"Safety Glasses!"

Text: Exodus 14:13,14

"And Moses said to the people, 'Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still.'

When read history of Jewish nation & beginnings, read of nation oppressed severely.

Had been enslaved by same people as once friendly. Story of Joseph & bros how settled & favorites of Egyptians

But when difficult times, tried solve problems forgetting about God.

But God came to rescue again, selected Moses leader God put deliverance in motion thru servant Moses God heard cry of people.

Bible records:

"And the people of Israel groaned under their bondage and cried out for help, and their cry under bondage came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God saw the people of Israel and knew their condition." Ex. 2:23-25

More people fought to be free of bondage, more Pharaoh hardened heart & would not release them Not until plagues, & in particular Passover, Pharaoh decided to let go.

But even after they left God spoke Moses, & told how he would harden Pharaoh's heart once again, at once for all Egyptians would know He was God.

In chap. 14:vs 5 read king told people gone They wondered what they had permitted to happen Now they realized no more slaves & servants Now they were left to do own work So Pharaoh's heart hardened again & pursues them with army and chariots

He comes upon them while they camped by Red Sea Vs. 10 people filled with fear.

Here in their lives Jews walking by sight not faith Had gotten eyes off God & on men

they began to fear Moses had led astray,

Instead looking up to God, looking back in fear Demosning fact no longer in safety & security of Egypt, once held for them.

The message from GOD is:

4/

"Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord which He will work for you today. The Lord will work for you, and you ~~will be still~~ have only to be still."
Be still, and let God put his safety glasses on you,

Someone else must educate our children.

3/

It is time that we parents begin to assume our responsibility for the proper education of our children.

We need to begin to teach them what God means to me. What God has done & has been in history. Our library over there ~~is~~ has many good books of Bible stories, we could be sharing with our child.

Maybe we do not know all about Bible.

No cause for embarrassment.

I do not know it intimately or completely, but we should continue to search and learn.

I can recall as little boy how mother would take time out to answer a childish question.

Regardless what the question, always had answer that had to do with God.

Many times she would simply tell me Bible story appropriate for the occasion.

She gave me the safety glasses of God.

When all is going well we are able to praise God.

But when smallest trouble comes, we get discouraged and begin to complain and murmur.

This what happened to Jewish people.

They could only stand and look at sea stretching before them.

They could only think here we are without ships, how to escape annihilation.

We would say, "Up creek without paddle."

As they looked back saw Egyptians in hot pursuit, & thought slavery better than death.

It is surprising how many of us are guilty many times of looking back to the Egyptians following us or pushing us toward the Red Sea in front of us.

But if we put on the safety glasses of God, & looked toward Him, life would take on its proper perspective.

We take our eyes off the Lord, and we look at ourselves, our needs our wants, our desires, and we forget all else.

We are something like the young man who once was walking and looked down and found 10 dollar bill. He spent all of life looking down at ground found dozens of bottle caps, bottles, paper etc, & missed all of the beauty around him.

"Safety Glasses!"

Text: Exodus 14:13,14.

"And Moses said to the people, 'Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you ~~only~~ have only to be still.'"

~~When we read the history of~~

When we read the history of the Jewish nation in its early beginnings, we read of a nation that was oppressed very severely. They had been enslaved by the very same people who had once been friendly to them. I am sure we all know the story of Joseph and his brothers and how they settled in Egypt and were the favored people of the land. But then they had difficult times and they tried to solve their own problems forgetting about God.

But once again God came to their rescue and selected Moses to be their leader. God put his deliverance into motion through His servant Moses, because we are told that He heard the cry of His people. The Bible records,

"And the people of Israel groaned under their bondage, and cried out for help, and their cry under bondage came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. And God saw the people of Israel and knew their condition." Ex. 2:23-25

The more the people sought to be free of their bondage, the more Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not release them. It was not until the plagues were visited upon the Egyptians and more specifically the Passover, that Pharaoh decided that he would let the people go. But even after the people had gone God spoke to Moses and informed him that He would harden Pharaoh's heart once again, that once and for all the Egyptians would know that He was God.

So we read in chapter 14, verse 5, that the king was told that the people had gone, and they wondered at what they had done. They realized that now they no longer had slaves and people to do their bidding. They were left to do all of the work that the Israelites were forced to perform. Thus, their anxiety that the Israelites had gone.

So Pharaoh's heart is hardened toward them again, and he pursues them with his army and his chariots, and he comes upon them while they are camped at

the sea. And we read (vs 10), the people were filled with fear. Right here in their lives, the Jews were walking by sight and not by faith. They had gotten their eyes off God and on men and they began to fear that Moses had led them astray. Instead of looking up to God in faith, they were looking back in fear toward Egypt. They were bemoaning the fact that they were ~~not~~ ^{ONCE} no longer in the safety and security that Egypt ¹ held for them. They had completely forgotten that they had been ill-treated and abused slaves of the Egyptians. They were not willing to trust God to take care of the problem at hand.

But Moses, man of faith that he was on many occasions, tells them, (14:13 & 14). He is telling them to look toward God and forget about looking back to Egypt and their pursuers. And if we read the remainder of this chapter, we read how ~~THE~~ Moses at the command of God, stretches out his rod and the sea divides allowing them to pass through it and after they have crossed, the sea returns to normal again and the Egyptians are drowned and destroyed.

Thousands of years have passed since those people lived through that episode, and yet human nature has not changed very significantly. People are still prone to look back in fear instead of looking ahead in faith. As I read this incident I was reminded of when I was working as a salesman ^{How} I would call on different industrial plants. Before entering the plant proper I was issued a hard hat and a pair of safety glasses. Most of the men here this morning know about safety glasses, so there is no need for me to explain this ~~then~~ to them. But for those who do not know about safety glasses, they are a special pair of glasses with thick safety glass for the lens, and on the sides they have little gizmos that come out and protect the eyes from something that might fly at you from the side. They not only protect the eyes, but they make it possible to work in dangerous areas, with little fear, and to be able to concentrate on your work.

Today we observe as Boy Scout Sunday. This is a day in which we not only recognize this organization and the boys of this congregation who participate in it, but we think of youth in general. We need to be giving all youth

safety glasses for their lives. We need to be telling them as Moses did a long ago, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. The Lord will fight for you and you have only to be still." With these glasses fitted firmly upon them, our young people and any ~~young people~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ person for that matter, need not fear what is coming from the side, or what has been in the past, but can instead concentrate upon the task at hand, knowing that God will take care of all circumstances.

We need to instill this not only in Boy Scouts, but in our Church School as well. It has been a source of amazement to me ~~that~~ in the past few years that so many of our Church School youngsters, not only here but elsewhere, ~~xxxxxx~~ do not know some of the simplest Bible stories. I think this is not only a sad commentary on our United Church of Christ curriculum, but on the parents as well. We are living in a society today that wants to pass the buck all the way down the line. The trend has been and is continuing, that someone else must bear the burden. Someone else must take care of our sick. Someone else must take care of our aged. Someone else must educate our children.

It is time that we who are parents began to assume the responsibility for the proper education of our children at all age levels. We need to begin to teach them what God means to me, and this is what He has done in history. Our library over there has many good books of Bible stories that we could be using as families to teach our children. Maybe we ~~don't~~ do not know all of the Bible and all that is in it. This is not a cause for embarrassment or shame. I do not know all of the Bible intimately, but I continue to seek in it for the answers I need. I can recall as a very little boy, how my mother would take time out from what she was doing to answer a childish question of mine. ~~xxxxx~~ Regardless what the question was, it always had an answer that had to do with God. Many times she would simply tell me a Bible story that was appropriate for the occasion. She gave me the safety glasses of God.

When everything is going well we are able to praise God. But when the smallest troubles come, we get discouraged and begin to complain and to murmur. This is what happened to the Jewish people. They could only stand and look at

sea stretching out before them. They could only think that here we are without any ships at all, how are we going to escape complete annihilation? We would say, "They were up the creek without a paddle." As they looked back they saw the Egyptians in hot pursuit and they thought back to living there, and even slavery was better than death.

It is surprising how many answers and excuses I get as to why people do not come to church. I call someone on the phone who has not been in church for sometime and immediately I get the reasons as to why not. It is almost as though the preacher is a walking confessional booth. But basically all of the excuses for non-attendance at church, stems from a personal feeling. They are reasons that have turned the gaze of the person away from God and on themselves. And isn't this what causes most of our problems? We take our eyes off the Lord, and we look at ~~our personal wants and needs and~~ ~~desires~~ ourselves. We look at our personal wants, and needs, and desires.

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 10, 1974

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR

MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST

MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR

DENNIS MASTER, PAULA STEPHENSON - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "SABBATH MORNING" SAVAGE
"ANDANTINO RELIGIOSO" STABILE

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 43 "WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES"

*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "OH CHRIST, WE STAND AS YOUR WATCHMEN EVER ON THE ALERT, READY FOR ANY THREAT TO OURSELVES OR OTHERS. CHRIST THE REVEALER OF GOD AND AS THE PROPHET SAID, WE ARE YOUR WATCHMEN. FORGIVE US WHEN WE HAVE DESERTED OUR POSTS. PARDON US WHEN WE HAVE LET SIN INVADE OUR OWN LIVES OR LEFT THE WAY OPEN FOR TEMPTATION TO OVERCOME OUR NEIGHBOR. FORGIVE US WHERE WE HAVE FORGOTTEN TO WARN OUR NEIGHBOR OF IMPENDING DANGER, AND WHEN WE FAIL TO MEET HIS BASIC NEEDS. AND AS YOU FORGIVE, GRANT US THE STRENGTH TO STAND FAST AT OUR POSTS DESPITE OURSELVES. WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS WHO DIED TO MAKE US NEIGHBORS. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: EZEKIEL 34: 1-16

HYMN No. 461 "SAVIOUR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "CHanson TRISTE" TSCHAIKOWSKY

ANTHEM: "GRANT, WE BESEECH THEE" DAVIS

SERMON: "LOVE THOSE STATISTICS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 393 "O BROTHER MAN"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "PSALM OF JOY" BLAKE

--- *CONGREGATION STANDING ---

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON TO THE "GLORY OF GOD".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *MONT MACKINNEY,

STEVE VARGO, JHUCK FENAR, WALLY FEDER.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. BARBARA VARGO AND KAREN KENNEDY.

DEACONESS MRS. ANN WILLIAMS WILL BE AT THE DOOR TODAY REPRESENTING COUNCIL.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 216.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON

TONIGHT - 6:30 - THE YOUTH CHOIR WILL MEET - MRS.

CYNIDIE SYBERT WILL BE THE DIRECTOR. PRACTICE WILL BE OVER AT 7:30. THIS IS OPEN FOR ANYONE FROM 4TH GRADE AND UP.

COMING UP SOON - FEB. 21 IS THE BUTLER AREA LAYMAN'S DINNER - THURSDAY EVENING AT 6:30 - THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP HAVE CHARGE OF THE MEAL AT THIS CHURCH. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM J. WALTER HARMON AND ROBERT TAIT.

~~SAT. FEBRUARY~~ - FEB. 16 - THE ARC WILL HOLD A SWEETHEART DINNER-DANCE AT THE SAXONBURG FIRE HALL. MR. & MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON AND MR. & MRS. CHARLES FENAR HAVE TICKETS. MEET UPSTAIRS FOR THE MEAL AT 7:00.

FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE - FEB. 24, MARCH 17 & 31.

CONTACT BEA IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR YEARBOOK - THEY ARE IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY - THE USHERS WILL HELP YOU LOCATE YOURS.

DON'T FORGET TO STILL SAVE YOUR OLD ROSE FOR GREENVILLE HOME. VASES ARE STILL NEEDED TO SEND ALTAR FLOWERS TO PATIENTS AT THE LOCAL HOSPITAL. YOU MAY PLACE THESE ON THE COUNTER IN THE KITCHEN.

WELCOME VISITORS.

(Illustration of sailor disfigured in war)

The author of Hebrews tells us,

~~"Examine yourselves and see whether~~

brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body."

We are to put ourselves in the shoes of the other person.

We are to think what it would be like to be in their circumstances.

When we look at it in this light, life takes on a different complexion.

We can see that life would change radically if we would act in this way.

But too often we are comparable to the ~~shepherds~~ people of Israel that God was speaking to through Ezekiel.

Too often we are ready to condemn and criticize.

Too often we are content to stand smugly by and gloat over others misfortunes, thinking that we are righteous and they are not.

It is so easy to pass by the others who are less fortunate than we.

(Illustration of Dr. Paul Mansfield)

Here was a man who loved statistics.

He loved them enough that he gave of his time, his money, his strength, his energy.

Do you love ~~statistics~~ those statistics?
God wants us to.

He tells us, vs 15 and 16.

Even if we do not love those statistics He will.
God will seek them out, and search for them, and not give up on them even if we do.

I pray that each of us will go out and minister to those in need in the name of Jesus Christ.

May we support those who need our help, and love those who are unlovable.

And may God guide us that we may always love the parties of broken marriages. That we will love mental patients. That we will love the drug addicts, and the criminals,

"Love Those Statistics!"

Text: Ezekiel 34:15,16,

"I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice."

out of every 1000 ended in divorce
In 1971 768 marriages ~~ended~~
or about 3 out of 4 failed.

In 70, 3.3 Americans per 1000 pop. mental patients

In 70 68,864 drug addicts

In 69 -676 violent crimes per 100,000 pop.

In 70 32.3% per 1000 pop. of youth between 10 and 17 were delinquent.

How's that for statistics?

We are a nation of statistics.

You are stats, and so am I.

recently heard that in every car being driven in U.S. there are 1.5 people.

8 out of 10 people prefer a certain toothpaste, and 27% like the president.

Love Those Statistics!

Ezekiel 34: vs 2b, the shepherds have neglected the sheep.

vs 4,5,6 the shepherds have not taken care of the needs of the sheep.

In the NT Jesus tells of a shepherd looking for the lost sheep.

Alfred Soord painted this picture. on canvas

He portrays a very masculine, rough, tough shepherd. instead of an effeminate shepherd as most are painted

In one hand the crook thrust between some rocks.

With other hand reaching out & down to sheep standing on rocks below him.

Can see straining muscles in hands & arms.

Circling overhead eagles waiting chance to swoop, & attack this meat for a meal.

Evident the sheep not led there by the shepherd the mt. rock strewn and sheep wandered or fell whatever the case the shepherd risking life for sheep

This is what God is saying in vs 11 & 12. He will seek them regardless.

the drunkards, the down and outers, and all of the
other statistics that we love to quote.

3/

May we love those statistics and may they become for
each of us, real live men and women who are loved by
God and whom we must show our love, our concern, and
our help.

"Care For Statistics?"

Text: Luke 15:6b, "I have found my sheep that was lost." Jer. Bible

Hebrews 13:1-3, "Continue to love each other like brothers, and remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; and those who are being badly treated, since you too are in one body."

~~According to~~ *IN* 1971 ~~statistics~~, 768 out of every 1000 marriages ended in divorce. This would mean that almost 75% of every 1000 marriages ended in divorce or about 3 out of every 4 failed.

In 1970 3.3 Americans per 1000 population were admitted to mental hospitals.

In 1970 there were 68, 864 drug addicts listed for the United States.

In 1969 there were 676 violent crimes committed per 100,000 population.

In 1970 32.3% per 1000 population of youth between the ages of 10 and 17 were delinquent.

Jesus told a wonderful little story when He spoke of the shepherd going after one sheep that was lost. An artist named Alfred Soord painted a picture which he entitled, "The Lost Sheep." Here is a picture that tells this story in vivid detail. Most of the time when we see a painting of the Good Shepheard we see portrayed an elegantly dressed effeminate shephard. He is usually carrying a lamb on his shoulders and he looks more like a well scrubbed wealthy boy and not at all like the rough tough person a real shepherd must have been. ~~But this is~~ *IS A RUBBED LOOKING MAN.* The kind of shepherd that Soord displays. The picture shows a shepherd in the rough cloak made of wool with the fleece side in, hanging on the side of a steep hill or mountain. In one hand he has the shepherds crook which is thrust ~~into~~ in between

some rocks to give him leverage to reach out beneath him. With the other hand he is reaching out and down to a sheep who is standing on the rocks below him. You can see the straining muscles in his hand as it grips the staff, and the other arm and hand as they reach out convey to the onlooker a sense of urgency. Circling overhead are what appear to be eagles awaiting a chance to swoop down and ~~xxx~~ attack this meat for a meal.

It is evident from this portrayal on canvas that this sheep was not led there by the shepherd. The mountain is wild and rock strewn and it becomes infinitely clear in a very short time that the sheep wandered in this direction and fell or became lost from the flock. Perhaps the sheep was too adventuresome, or was too young to know the dangers that were present. But whatever the case, the shepherd is risking his very life to save that one lost sheep.

This is what Jesus was portraying in his parable of the lost sheep. He was saying that God cares about the sheep who go astray. God is concerned about those 3 marriages out of 4 that go sour. He is concerned about the 3.3% who are in mental hospitals. He is concerned about those thousands of drug addicts. He is concerned about those people who have committed murder and rape and theft. He is concerned about the 32.3% who are juvenile delinquents. God cares about all of His children. He is not content that one of them should perish.

~~But there is one further aspect of this~~ We know that God cares about these people but what about the rest of us? Do you care for statistics? Do I? Does anyone?

(Illustration of son disfigured in the navy and rejected by parents)

We can accept our own kin, those who are nearest and dearest to us, but this shows our reluctance to love those least like us. But not so with God. He loves the lost, the last, and the least of

men.

Along these same lines the author of Hebrews is telling us; "Continue to love each other like brothers, and remember always to welcome strangers. Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; and those who are being badly treated, since you too are in one body."

We are to put ourselves in the shoes of the other ~~per~~son. We are to think in terms of what it would be like if the tables were reversed and we were the ones who were in prison, or if we were those who were being mistreated by others. When we look at it in this light it takes on an altogether different meaning. We can see then that life would change radically for anyone under circumstances such as these.

Too often we are ready to condemn and to criticize. Too often we are content to stand smugly by and think of ourselves as being so righteous and anyone not like us is deserving of what he gets. But our stand should be one of love and concern for those statistics. If we cannot do anything else, the very least we can do is to try to remember people in these circumstances in our prayers.

I heard an interesting item on a news program this past week. It involves a man being sought by the police. It seems this fellow came to this ~~coal~~ mining area and set himself up in practice as a doctor. For a few years now he has been taking care of the needs of these people setting bones and dispensing medicine, ~~but then~~ But you see his crime is one of not being licensed as a doctor. So when he heard that the law was coming for him he disappeared and it is thought he ~~went~~ ^{HAS GONE} to South America because he often mentioned that he wanted to go there to help those people. ~~He~~ ^H He mentioned that the law

^{THERE} - was ~~not as concerned about~~ more lenient when it came to licensing and restrictions on practitioners. Now the people ^{OF THAT AREA} must go to the nearest

doctor who is merely 75 miles away. There were never any complaints about the man and he never harmed anyone by giving the wrong medicine, nor was he ever responsible for anyones death. His only crime, no degree and no license. And for helping people and curing their illnesses he becomes a criminal.

I'm not implying that we must stop the practice of dispensing degrees and licenses, but I am saying that we need to evaluate just what they really amount to in some instances. Here is a man who took upon himself a task that no one else wanted because it was probably not lucrative enough. We glorify robbers and murderers like Bonnie and Clyde, and we make a big issue out of lawbreakers such as the Harrisburg Seven and Angela Davis, and when someone is striving to do something to help mankind we ostracize and condemn them. I think we really need to think through our whole value system again and change it.

I'm not plugging doctors and general practitioners this morning, but I would like to share with you another story of a doctor,

~~and a doctor.~~

(Illustration of doctor Mansfield and love for his people)

Care for statistics? Here was a man who did. Do you care for statistics? I certainly hope so. I ^{pray} ~~hope~~ that each one of us will go out and minister to those in need and to support those who need our help. And may God guide us that we may ever care for statistics so they become real live men and women who need our love, our concern and our help.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 17, 1974
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
JODI MARTE, GORDON KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
PRELUDE MUSIC "JOY FILLS THE MORNING" WELLS
"MORNING PRELUDE" OETTING

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 39 "SAFELY THROUGH ANOTHER WEEK"
*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL GOD, WHO HAST PROMISED MERCY AND FORGIVENESS TO ALL THEM WHO CONFESS AND FORSAKE THEIR SINS, WE COME BEFORE THEE WITH A HUMBLE SENSE OF OUR OWN UNWORTHINESS, ACKNOWLEDGING OUR ~~MANI~~FOLD TRANSGRESSIONS OF THY RIGHTEOUS LAW, IN THOUGHT, IN WORD, AND IN DEED. WE HAVE EVERY DAY DONE THOSE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST FORBIDDEN, AND LEFT UNDONE THOSE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST COMMANDED; SO THAT, WHEN WE LOOK UPON OUR PAST LIVES, AND REMEMBER THAT THOU KNOWEST OUR MOST SECRET SINS, WE ARE AFRAID OF THY JUDGMENTS, AND ASHAMED TO LIFT UP OUR EYES UNTO THEE. BUT, O GRACIOUS FATHER, WHO DESIREST NOT THE DEATH OF A SINNER, LOOK UPON US, WE BESEECH THEE, IN THY SON JESUS CHRIST, AND FOR THE MERITS OF HIS SUFFERINGS, BE MERCIFUL UNTO US, AND GRANT UNTO US THE FULL AND FREE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 9: 35-50

HYMN No. 213 "O LORD, TURN NOT THY FACE AWAY"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "ANDANTE SOSTENUTO" LUIGINI

INSTALLATION OF UNDER SHEPHERDS

ANTHEM: "AT WORSHIP" ARR. THOMPSON

SERMON: "A SALT FOR ALL SEASONS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 217 "ROCK OF AGES"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "MARCH EXALTATION" VAN WOERT

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM L. DUTTER IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *PAUL RIEMER, DARYL TAIT,

JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. PAUL RIEMER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG AND JANE ARMSTRONG.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON, MR. CLARENCE WOLFE - HOME HOLLY COVERT. - HOME (MRS. HOLDA LIPPA 454

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 219.

TONIGHT - 6:30 - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

TONIGHT - 7:00 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETING - 7:30

MONDAY - 7:30 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS MEETING

WEDNESDAY - 8:00 - GOLDEN CIRCLE MEETING

THURSDAY - 10:30 - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE - HOME OF MARY LOU DAVIS.

THURSDAY - 6:30 - BUTLER AREA LAYMAN'S DINNER -

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP HAVE CHARGE OF THE MEAL AT OUR CHURCH. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM J. WALTER HARMON AND ROBERT TAIT. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GOOD ATTENDANCE.

> THE UNDER SHEPHERDS WILL HAVE A SHORT MEETING TODAY AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE. ALL MATERIAL IS TO BE IN THE HANDS OF THE CONGREGATION BEFORE ASH WEDNESDAY. ALL YEAR BOOKS THAT WERE LEFT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY UNDER SHEPHERDS.

UP FRONT

VISITING WELCOMED

Salt necessary ingredient in our lives
 too much is trouble, too little is trouble,
 must have proper amount to stay healthy

vs 30a, Jesus probably talking to some fishermen &
 they knew value of salt.
 Fishing in Nova Scotia, St. Margarets Bay.
 filleted fish, others in barrel, salt as preservative
 until enuf to sell to buyer.

Js. listeners knew needed salt in hot dry climate
 else all spoil quickly

vs 50b "Have salt in yourselves."
 what does statement mean?
 Anyone knows must have salt in selves, a necessity.

Literally could mean shake one of little bottles on
 dining room table.
 But light of Js speaking is different meaning.

Telling disc. that day well as this, preservative of
 life must be kept constant supply each life
 Preservative of life was, is The Christian life

Xpians who lost xpian flavor cannot live, act as pre-
~~servative~~ serving force in world

Several yrs ago man remarked, "If you have anything
 peculiarly Christian to say at this hour, for God's
 sake say it. If you have nothing to say but the echo
 of what is heard on every street corner and in every
 luncheon club in the land, for God's sake keep still."

What this man said then applies today as well, and
 especially in many pulpits.

Dr. Carl Menninger ~~xxxxxx~~ noted psychiatrist in book
 "What Ever Happened to Sin?", points out that we
 would have less mental illness if people knew what sin
 was. He states, "A strange silence coming from our
 nation's pulpits about sin & its effects, & its con-
 sequences upon people's lives."

Here is man deals daily with people & mental problems
 He making remark that much mental illness avoided if
~~preachers~~ ministers get back to old fashioned preach
 what should be preached.

Here is a portion of salt Js talked about

In our scripture Js gives the admonition of what happen
 to someone causing a little one to sin

I wonder how many youth & young people who have attende
 church from 12,13 are aware of all implications of sin

"A Salt For All Seasons!"

Text: Mark 9:50,

(Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness,
 how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and
 be at peace with one another.)

In scripture Jesus had definite things to say about
 how we live.

vs 35, be servants

vs 37, receive children, & will receive Him
 if we refuse children we refuse Jesus

vs 40, for us or against us

no middle ground, either completely for or comp, again

Meat of message is vs 42, causing little ones to sin.

Not to do or say anything cause children sin
 especially sobering when think of His children we
 meet every day

We must guard all we do and say

Then He gives specifics

vs 43 (hands) keep off things, people.

watch hitting, touching, stealing
 cut off and not let cause you to sin

vs 45 (foot) walking, stepping over proper conduct
 cut off if causes to sin

vs 47 (eye) looking, lusting, desiring, wanting
 pluck out if cause to sin

Or words, take all things out of your life that
 may cause you to sin.

Stay away from people, places, things that will let
 you fall

Avoid the temptations that will bring down to world in
 level & its earthly pleasures

He not only warns about sin, but about punishment

vs 48, Must always be aware God God of love, but will
 not stand by and let do as pleases

And at hour of death usher us into kingdom.

Instead he gives chance to get right and be right.

To deliberately refuse is to invite own punishment

Humorous record of salt.

Yiddish man, "Have I got salt?"

(It overflows garage, house, store etc.

"Three times a year, a salesman comes here, and
 boy can he sell salt."

Going be called upon answer collective, personal sin?
We need know we are sinning in our lives.
Not one here this morning can sit back say,
Preacher talk about others in cong, town, not me."
If we do, then as Apostle John says, "A liar and the
truth not in us."

Billy Graham in Atlanta past summer.
opposition long before he ever arrived.
not from Non-Christian, but from clergy of mainline
prot churches.

Sad commentary when we realize Atlanta leads nation,
wonderful statistic of best peaches,
leads nation in Number One City Venereal disease.

If any city needs crusade should be city with most
immorality.

And we wonder why the strange silence coming from our
pulpits and not speaking out against sin.

What country needs is not good 5 cent cigar as someone
once proposed

What we need is the GOOD TEN COMMANDMENTS

This would be the Salt Js tells us have in lives

Only when Christ living in hearts & lives we have
A SALT FOR ALL SEASONS

It is only when Christ is presented to those who are
in need of reminding that they are sinners, that we
have the proper salt.

AY yes, it is only when the pulpits of our land once
again have men everywhere speaking to their people
about sin, and striving to help them to know that even
though we are all sinners, Jesus Christ removes our
sin, and makes us whole.

Only then will we have "A SALT FOR ALL SEASONS."

Say this because during last 6, 8 yrs involved in 3/
Viet Nam.

During this time many preachers were voicing opinions
about immorality of that war.

Each what said right.

But while belaboring immoral war, how many were
striving to preach to cong. about immorality/home?

We look at "New Morality" & shocked at free love,
pre-marital sex, communal living, wife swapping,
young people living together no marriage,
shake head say, "How, & why come about?"

How many of young peop involved never heard the denun-
ciation of this kind of living as coming from Word of
God?

How many have left church disgruntled & discouraged,
never to hear pastor ~~talk~~ speak out against immorality
of all kinds?

We look what I call "New Immorality" in nation, & are
shocked peop should be trustworthy will cheat income
tax, break in & spy, bug phones, accept bribes etc,
& we ask, "How & why has this come about in nation?"

Yet how many of these same peop. church regularly &
listened nice little sermons that never once caused
them to look into their hearts & see they sinners?

How many us listened ser. race equal, been convinced
must do something, never been told must start with
brother next door, cross street or same house, for
do otherwise sin.

Nation standard today make us modern Sodom Gomorrah
Have come believe not sin lie, cheat, steal, extort,
bug, gossip, break into, be immoral & do all things
word of God speaks against.

NO, ALL THESE NOT SINS, ONLY SIN IS TO GET CAUGHT.

We have glorified drunkenness, immorality, lawlessness
& other things films & tv, & wonder why young peop
act as they do.

We hide behind our stocks, bonds, our corps, bilt on
sweat of thousands of poor.

Our city, state, federal officials go in office avg
common peop, come out millionaires.

All this done in guise of respectability & NO ONE
BOTHERS OR DARES TO STAND UP AND CRY SIN, SIN.

When I look around me at nation, our peop everywhere,
I can't help but think there comes day of reckoning,
& God help us when it does.

"Salt For All Seasons!"

Mark 9:50, "Salt is good; but if ~~salt~~ the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

WERE SEVERAL

Shortly after World War II there ~~was~~ humorous records ^{AMONG THEM WAS A RECORD ABOUT SALT} that came out. The man on the record talked all through it in the Yiddish dialect, and all he said had to do with salt. He said, "Salt, have I got salt?" Then he proceeded to explain that he had salt ~~in his~~ overflowing his store, his house, his garage. Everywhere he had an overabundance of salt. He remarked that he could not sell the salt, but the punch line went something like this, "Three times a year a salesman comes here, and boy can he sell salt."

Salt is a very necessary ingredient in our lives. We must have a certain amount in our bodies to remain healthy. Too much salt and we have some problems. Salt is necessary in many ways, as we shall see this morning.

~~In trying to explain a portion of our scripture for this morning we find it contains many different~~

In our text ~~about salt~~, Jesus is talking about salt. He tells His listeners that salt is good. Perhaps some of His listeners were fishermen, they knew the value of salt. In Nova Scotia this past summer we went cod fishing ^{ON A FISHING BOAT.} When we came back ~~in~~ from St. Margarets Bay, the fisherman filleted the fish we wanted and the others he cleaned and packed in large barrels in salt. This salt would act as a preservative until he had a sufficient quantity ^T to ship to the fish buyers.

Jesus goes on to say that salt is only good when it is salty, and if it loses its ~~s~~altiness, then it is worthless. "How will you season it," He asks? ~~These~~ people knew what He was talking about. They understood that salt had to be salty or things would spoil more rapidly in that hot desert climate of Palestine. He told them, "Have Salt in"

"A Salt For All Seasons!"

Le. Mark 9:50, "Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

In our scripture for this morning Jesus had some very definite things to say regarding our way of living. First he tells us that we must be his servants, vs 35b. Then he tells us that we must receive children because when we do we receive Him. And if we refuse to receive children we refuse Jesus Himself. He points out that we are either for or against Him, when one of His disciples talks about others ministering in His name. Jesus lets it be known that there is no middle ground of belief. We either are completely for Him and follow Him, or we are completely against Him.

But then He really gets to the meat of His message when He says; vs 42. In other words we are not to cause any of His children to sin. We are not to do anything or say anything that will cause another to sin. This is especially stirring when we consider that we all come into contact with many of His children everyday, and that we must guard what we do and guard what we say.

Then He gives specifics for His followers. He says; vs 43 (hands) He is saying; if your hand is somewhere and it is going to sin, like stealing, or hitting someone, or touching someone in a wrong way, cut it off and do not let it cause you to sin.

vs. 45 (foot) He is saying if your foot is going to lead to a place where you will sin, or if you are going to step over the proper rules of conduct and living, then cut it off.

vs. 47 (eye) He is saying that if your eyes are going to lead you astray, that if they are going to look at things that will make you desire them wrongfully, if they are going to cause you to lust, then pluck them out. In other words by all means and as much as possible, remove the things from your life that may cause you to sin. Stay away from things and people that may cause you to stumble. Avoid the temptations that will bring you down to the level of the world and its earthly pleasures.

Jesus not only warns against the sins, but he warns that there is a punishment

for disobedience as well. vs. 48, "where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." We must always be aware that although God is a God of love, He is not going to stand by and let us do just exactly as we please and then at the hour of our death usher us into His kingdom simply because He is all loving. Instead He gives us every opportunity to get right with Him, and strive to live right and by so doing we can become a part of His kingdom. But to deliberately refuse is to invite our own punishment.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Shortly after World War II several humorous records came out. ~~XXXX~~ Among them was a record about salt. The man on the record talked all through the record in the Yiddish dialect and all he said had to do with salt. He said, "Salt, have I got salt." Then he proceeded to explain that he had an overabundance of salt. He had salt overflowing his store, his house, his garage, everywhere he had too much salt. He remarked that he had difficulty selling the salt, but the punch line was, "Three times a year, a man comes here, and boy, can he sell salt."

Salt is a very necessary ingredient in our lives. If we have too much we have problems and if we have too little we have other problems, we must have the proper amount in order to remain healthy.

Jesus told the people that "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how will you season it?" Perhaps some of His listeners were fishermen and they understood what he was saying. When we were in Nova Scotia we went Cod fishing. When we came back in from St. Margarets Bay, the fisherman filleted the fish we wanted and the rest he put into large barrels packed with salt. The salt would act as a preservative until he had a sufficient quantity to ship to the fish buyers.

Jesus listeners must have known that in the hot dry climate in which they lived, things would spoil very rapidly and readily if they were not preserved with salt.

Thus they had a very good idea of what he was saying.

But then he told them, "Have salt in yourselves."

yourselves." What could He possibly mean by that statement? This is a very strange thing for Jesus to be saying. Anyone knows that we each have salt in ourselves, and that it is a necessity of life.

Well, if we take this literally, we are thinking that we need to shake one of those little glass bottles we have on our dining room tables, and this will give us the salt we need in ourselves. But if we look at it in the light of what Jesus was really saying, then it takes on a different meaning.

He was telling His disciples of that day, as well as His followers of this day, that the preservative of life, must be kept in constant supply in each life. The preservative of life was and is, the Christian life. Christians who have lost their Christian flavor, cannot live or act in their lives as a preserving force in the world.

Several years ago a man remarked, "If you have anything peculiarly Christian to say at this hour, for God's sake say it! If you have nothing to say but the echo of what is heard on every street corner and in every luncheon club in the land, for God's sake keep still!" I think what this man said then, still applies today, and I would say that it applies to many men who occupy many pulpits in the land.

Just this past week a commentator on the radio was telling of a book written by Dr. Karl Menninger the noted psychiatrist. The title of the book is, "What Ever Happened To Sin?" In his book Dr. Menninger points out that we would have less mental illness in our nation if people knew what sin is. He states that there has been a strange silence coming from our nation's pulpits about sin and its effects, and its consequences. ^{AND PEOPLE'S LIVES.}

~~Here~~ Here is a man who deals daily with mental problems and disorders of all kinds, and he is making the remark that much mental illness could be avoided if our ministers would get back to the old fashioned task of preaching what they should be preaching. Here is a portion of that salt that Jesus was talking about.

This commentary on Dr. Menninger's book gave me my inspiration for this morning's message. I began to search the scriptures for a passage dealing with sin, and ironically I found ~~xxxx~~ this passage in Mark. I say ironically, because it tells in vivid detail of the effects of sin and what is going to happen to those who sin. In other words it speaks of a hell, and I spoke of hell last week.

For In our scripture we read of the admonition of Jesus that anyone who causes children to sin, it would be better if that person were thrown into the sea. By this we may imply that to permit sin to enter into the lives of children or youth is a very serious offence. Yet I wonder how many of our youth and young people today, who have attended church from say the age of 12 or 13, are aware of all of the implications of sin. I say this, because for the past 6 or 8 years we have been involved in that war in Viet Nam. During all of that time, many preachers were voicing their opinions as to the immorality of that war, and much of what they have said is right. But, while they have been belaboring an immoral war, how many of them have been striving to preach to their congregations of the sin of immorality here at home.

We look at what has been called the "New Morality" in our nation and we are shocked at the free love, the pre-marital sex, the communal living, the wife swapping, the living together of young people without bothering with marriage, and we shake our heads and we ask, "How, and why has this come about?" How many of the young people thus involved, never heard the denunciation of this type of living as coming from the word of God, and how many of them left the church ^{discouraged & disillusioned} never to hear their pastor speak out against immorality of all kinds?

I PREFER TO CALL
WHO
We look at what ~~could be termed~~ the "New Immorality" in our nation, and we are shocked that people ~~that~~ ^{WHO} should be trustworthy will stoop to cheating on their income taxes, will break into private quarters of others to spy on them, will bug their phones, will accept bribes and

will do numerous other shady things, and we ask, "How and why has this come about in our nation?" Yet, how many of these ^{same} people have gone to church regularly and listened to nice little sermons that never once caused them to look within their hearts and see that they are sinners.

How many of us have listened to sermons about racial equality and have been convinced that we must help those of minority groups, but have never been told that we must start treating that person living around or near us as a brother, for to do otherwise is a sin?

We have standards in our nation that ~~xxx~~ make us the modern day equivalent of Sodom and Gomorrah. We have come to believe that it is not a sin to lie, to cheat, to steal, to extort, to bug, to break into, to gossip, to be immoral and to do all of the things that the Word of God speaks against. No, all of these are not sins, the only sin is to get caught.

We have glorified drunkenness, immorality, lawlessness and other things in our films and on our televisions and we wonder why our young people act as they do. We hide behind our stocks and bonds, our corporations built on ~~the~~ greed and the sweat of many thousands of our poor. Our city, county, state, and federal officials go into office as average common people, and come out millionaires. All of this is done in the guise of respectability, and no one bothers or dares to stand up and cry SIN.

When I look around me at our nation, and our people everywhere, I cannot help but feel that there is going to come a day of reckoning, and God help us when it does. We are going to be called upon to answer for our collective and our personal sins, and I believe we should know that we are sinning ^{in our lives} ~~when we do~~. There isn't a one of us here this morning who can sit back and say, "Well, the preacher may be talking about many other people in our nation and here in our town, but he isn't talking about me." Because if we do, then we are as the apostle John says, "A liar and the

truth is not in us."

This past summer Billy Graham held a crusade in Atlanta Georgia. He met a tremendous amount of opposition to his ministry there, ^{LONG} BEFORE HE EVER ~~CAME~~ APPEARED UPON THE SCENE. ¹
Now the opposition did not come from the irreligious, but it was led by none other than the clergy of many of the mainline protestant churches there and I wouldn't be surprised if the UCC led the parade. Now this is a sad commentary indeed when we stop to consider that Atlanta Georgia does not lead the nation in the wonderful statistic of growing the best peaches, but instead leads the nation as being ~~the worst city~~ the number ONE city in Venereal Disease. If any ~~nation~~ city needs to have a crusade to bring Christ into their lives, it should be the city with the most immorality. ~~From this we can see that our preachers are going to be called to reckoning when they stand before for~~
And we wonder ^{WHY} the strange silence coming from our pulpits ~~against sin~~ and ^{NOT} speaking out against sin.

What this country needs is not a good 5 cent cigar as someone once proposed, what it needs is the good 10 Commandments. This would be the salt that Jesus tells us to have in our lives. It is only when we have Christ living in our hearts and our lives that we have salt for all seasons. It is only when we have Christ presented to those who are in need of reminding that they are sinners, that we have the proper salt. And yes, it is only when the pulpits of our land once again have men everywhere speaking to their people against sin, and striving to help them to know that even though we all are sinners, Jesus Christ removes our sin, and makes us whole. Only then, will we have Salt For All Seasons.

Call to Worship: God is a spirit: and they that
worship Him, must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 24, 1974
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
JODI MARTE, GORDON KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "FANTASIE TRIUMPHALE" MARTIN

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 31 "FATHER, AGAIN IN JESUS' NAME
WE MEET"

*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST HOLY GOD, WHO DOES
SEARCH AND PURIFY THE HEARTS OF MEN: GRANT US TO
KNOW OURSELVES AS WE TRULY ARE; OPEN TO US THE
CONDITION OF OUR SOULS; GIVE US PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS
FOR OUR SINS, ENABLE US WITH STEADFAST RESOLUTION TO
AMEND OUR LIVES; DELIVER US FROM CAPTIVITY TO FALSE
THOUGHTS AND EVIL HABITS, THAT WITH UNITY OF MIND AND
PEACE OF CONSCIENCE WE MAY HAVE OUR FULL RECONCILIATION
WITH YOU, AND BE OF THE BLESSED COMPANY OF ALL YOUR
FAITHFUL PEOPLE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 4: 1-14

HYMN No. 381 "FLING OUT THE BANNER!"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (STATEMENT OF FAITH)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "TRAUMERE!"

SCHUMANN

ANTHEM: "THE CHILDREN'S HYMN OF PRAISE" RASLEY

SERMON: "THIRSTY HEARTS?"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 278 "O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET
ME GO"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO"

HOPKINS

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
THE FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS TO THE "GLORY OF GOD".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *DON KINGSLEY, DAVID
CURTIS, GEORGE PFLUGH AND JAMES MCCLYMONDS.

DEACON AND MRS. MIKE NAZARUK WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL
AT THE DOOR TODAY.

TUESDAY - 7:30 - BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - ASH WEDNESDAY - HOLY COMMUNION
(PEW) - THE SERMON TOPIC WILL BE "A CHANGE".

FRIDAY - 6:30 - WORK NIGHT TO PAINT THE LARGE ROOM
IN THE UNDERCROFT. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET
THAT WAY IT DOESN'T TAKE ANYONE EVERY LONG. THE MEN
ARE TO BRING DROP CLOTHS, ROLLERS (NECESSITY) AND
BRUSHES. THE WOMEN WILL CLEAN THE CUPBOARDS AND
DO OTHER WORK. WE WANT IT NICE FOR THE RECEIPTION
TO FOLLOW ORDINATION.

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE MARCH 10, AT 7:30 P.M. FOR THE
ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW MINISTER.

MARCH 17 IS STILL OPEN FOR ALTAR FLOWERS - IF YOU
WISH TO HAVE THIS SUNDAY - PLEASE LET BEA TAIT KNOW.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 235.

MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON WILL BE PIANIST FOR THE YOUTH
CHOIR TODAY. MRS. CYNDIE SYBERT WILL DIRECT THE
YOUTH CHOIR.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. LINDA McMILLIN

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. EDWARD WETCHEY, MRS. HOMER FILSON, 261

MISS WINIFRED MCGRODY, MRS. HULDA LIPPOLD. 454

WE WILL BE RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS SOON - IF YOU KNOW
OF ANY PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS PLEASE PUT THEIR NAME
AND ADDRESS IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR GIVE TO THE
MINISTER.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH - WED. - FEB. 27 - HOLY COMMUNION.
COME ALL SERVICED, LEAVE THE SELF - CLEAN.
WELCOME VISITORS

(Illustration Nikita Krushchev)

Here 2 exmp. of indiv. who've spent money for that which not bread, & to work for that which does not satisfy.

1. one known entertainer, other world leader
What is end result of life lived that way?
For Mastroianni living in dream world
For Krushchev life of disappointment & disillusion
Spent last day isolation in native Russia
For all intents & purposes prisoner of very system he helped shape & mold.

So it is with men who place allegiance in things of world.

Woman came Jesus at well of Jacob

He told her that whoever drinks of that water will thirst again.

But whoever drank of water He gave would never thirst
Js. really saying what Isa said so many yrs before vs. 1

Prophet then spoke on to listeners & told them vs 2b - 3a

He is telling them to listen carefully what he saying
They are to be eating & digesting proper food & diet
Does not mean just physical food, but spiritual as well

End result is a blessing of fatness

Not that spiritual food would make fat,
but way saying if do things should do, & listen to what God saying thru prophet, will have happiness of living in fulness or fatness of Lord.

in fatness used describe rich life, good life.
this term opp. of leanness in OT
leanness spoke of hardship, poverty, bad times etc.
Fatness, ease & luxury

Isa saying, "Listen to what I say, hear me, & if do soul shall live
Merely another means to come to God & get right with Him once more.

Js said woman at well, same as Isa only slightly diff way

Isa expressing desires have listeners come to God
drink of God's water for saving their souls

Js saying, Come to Him, for He was that living water of God, & they would have eternal life thru Him.

Thirsty Hearts

Text Isaiah 55:1-3a,

In America we consume about 30 gal. water per day per person.
We do not drink that much, but this avg. for wash, cook, drink etc.

Peop. Israel & Egypt not accustomed this luxury
During time Isaiah vendors walked streets of Near & Middle East selling water.

Even today they still do.

The cry of vs 1, Ho every one who thirsts, come to the waters," must have been a familiar one.

Isaiah uses phrase in invitation to people come forth & have needs supplied.

They could picture in mind eye man coming down street with water jars either on cart or drawn, or on shoulders, & supplying people's needs

It would conjure up in imaginations the times when they waited turn to receive some of precious liquid
But how could they possibly buy without money?
It simply not being done.

When the prophet continues to invite to buy wine & Milk without price vs. 1b

It becomes evident he is offering more than milk wine, and water.

The commodity is without price.

In other words it is priceless, cannot have value placed on it, it is so precious.

Now that he has gotten their attention, he asks the thought provoking question, vs 2a

Perhaps Isa. paused & gave several examples.

Could told of king wanted all ground around palace to make beautiful.

Was able buy all ground except one vineyard
When went to man he refused.

Evil wife plotted, & had man murdered
Thus King Ahab got his desire, & "spent money for that which could not satisfy."

Or he may of told of another king, who looked upon beauty of another man's wife.

His desire so great, he too plotted death of that man

Thus King David got heart's desire, & labored for that which did not satisfy.

Or we could look at own times & days & parallel these incidents with story of Italian Clark Gable, Marcello Mastroianni illustration of him.

We living in world searching & seeking 3/
As has never sought before
B. Graham has called it a ~~XXXXXXXXX~~ Relig. Revol.
(Quote by B. Graham)

All round us see evidence this search
Peop striving all ways find answers life's problems
Some seek thru gurus & mystics
Others Buddhism & other secret cults & sects.
But in all this activity is desire find meaning
of life
To find rest for their souls.

(Illustration of Danish boy & Girl suicide).

Many peop unable find answers to complexities life,
seek find it in next, by taking own lives
Unfortunately many succeed
still many others are being rescued by concerned
committed peop

This examp only 1 of many in which indiv. involved
have thirsty hearts.

Hearts parched & dry
cracked from lack of living water, can only come
from God.

They seeking slake thirst in all possible ways
but have only found things of this world like eating
too much salt.

The more salty food we eat, more thirsty we become.

Think of millions of thirsty hearts this day.. that
are panting to have someone say to them,

"Ho every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and
he who has no money, come, buy and eat."

(Illustration of priest & penitent man)

Perhaps some of us are in position where have thirsty
hearts, & are involved in search for God

Perhaps may be feeling alone & lost in the crowd

Do you have a thirsty heart oday?

"HO EVERY ONE WHO THIRSTS, COME TO THE WATERS."

COME TO HIM WHO ~~KILLXINXKILLINXKILLINX~~ IS THE WAY,
THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.

COME TO HIM WHO WILL GIVE, "LIVING WATER, WELLING UP
TO ETERNAL LIFE."

"ENLIVEN YOUR EAR, AND COME TO HIM; HEAR, THAT YOUR
SOUL MAY LIVE."

"Thirsty Hearts?"

Text: Isaiah 55:1-3a,

"Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live."

Did you know that in America at the last survey made, Americans consume 30 gallons of water per day. This does not mean that we each drink that much, but that is the average figure for washing, cooking cleaning bathing and so on. People from nations such as Israel and Egypt do not have this type of luxury. During the time of Isaiah, vendors would walk the streets of the cities of the Near and Middle East, selling water. Even today we are told they still do this.

The cry of "Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters," ^{extending} must have been a very familiar one. Isaiah uses this phrase in ~~telling~~ the ~~people~~ invitation to the people to come forth and have their needs supplied. They could picture in their mind's eye, the man coming down the street with the water jars either on a cart being drawn by an ox, or upon his shoulders, and supplying the needs of the people. It would conjure up in their imaginations, the times when they waited their turn to receive some of that precious liquid. But how could they possibly come and buy without money. This was simply not being done.

When the prophet continues to invite them to buy wine and milk without money and without price, it becomes evident that he is offering them something more than just wine and milk and water. The commodity is without price. In other words it is priceless, it cannot ~~be~~ have a value placed upon it, it is so precious.

Now that he has gotten their attention, he asks the very thought provoking question, "Why do you spend your money for that which

is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?"

Perhaps Isaiah paused here and ^{gave} ~~told~~ them several examples. He could have told them about a certain king who wanted all of the ground around the palace to make the palace grounds beautiful. He was able to buy up all of the property, except the vineyard of one man. When he went to the man, the man refused to give it up. So the evil wife of the king plotted and had the man murdered. Thus the ^{King Ahab} ~~king~~ got his desire, and he spent his money and his substance for that which could not satisfy.

Or he may have told him of another king, who looked upon the beauty of another man's wife, and his desire for her was so great, that he too plotted the death of that man. Thus King David got his heart's desire, and labored for that which did not satisfy.

Or we could look at our own times and days and parallel these incidents with the story of Marcello Mastroianni, who has often been called the Italian Clark Gable. Everywhere he goes the ladies swoon over him, and heap adulation at his feet. Yet, in an interview several years ago he confessed: (Illustration of Mastroianni)

Roy MacGregor Hastie wrote a biography of Nikita Krushchev, and in it he wrote, (Illustration of Krushchev)

Now here are two recent examples of individuals who have sought to spend money for that which was not bread, and to work for that which does not satisfy. One a well known entertainer, the other a world leader. And what is the end result of a life lived in such a way? For Mastroianni it is living in a dream world, where there is no meaning or purpose to life. For Krushchev it became a life of disillusionment, as he spent his last days in isolation in his native Russia. He was for all intents and purposes a prisoner of the very form of government he helped to shape and mold.

So it is with all men who place their allegiance in the things of this world. A woman came to Jesus at the well of Jacob,

and He told her that whoever would drink of that water would thirst again, But, whoever drank of the water that He gave, would never thirst. Jesus was really saying in another way exactly what Isaiah had said so many years before. "Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

The prophet then spoke on to his listeners and he told them, "Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in fatness." Incline your ear, and come to me; hear; that your soul may live." He is telling them to listen very carefully to what he is saying. They are to be eating and digesting the proper food and diet. He does not mean just physical food, but spiritual food. The end result of this would be that they would have a blessing of fatness. This does not mean that the spiritual food would make them fat. It is a way of saying that if they do the things they should ~~do~~, and ~~they~~ listen to what God is saying through His prophet, they will have the happiness of living in the fulness, or the fatness of the Lord. The term fatness, In the O.T. the opposite term leanness meant hardship, poverty, bad times etc. It was a term that spoke of ease and luxury.

Isaiah was saying, "Listen to what I say, hear me and if you do your soul shall live." It was merely another means of urging them to come to God and to get right with Him once more.

Jesus said to the woman at the well that "the water He would give would ~~well~~ become in a person a spring of water welling up to eternal life." He was saying the same thing as Isaiah, only in a slightly different way. Isaiah was expressing the desire to have his listeners come to God and drink of God's water for the saving of their souls, and Jesus was saying to come to Him, for He was that living water of God, and they would have eternal life through Him.

We are living in a world that is searching and seeking as it has never sought and searched before. Billy Graham has called it a

"Religious Revolution." He says; (Quote by Billy Graham)

All around us we see signs of this search, People are striving in all ways and ~~XXXXXX~~ means to find the answers to life's problems. Some are seeking it through Gurus and mystics. Others through Buddhism. Still others in secret cults and sects. But in all of this activity is the desire to find the meaning of life, and to find rest for their souls.

(Illustration of Danish boy and girl suicide)

Many people, unable to find the answers to the complexities of this life, seek to find it in the next, by taking their own lives. Unfortunately many succeed, but still many others are being rescued by concerned and committed people.

This example is only one of many in which the individuals involved ~~are thirsting for the answer to life~~ have thirsty hearts. Their hearts are dry and parched, and cracked from a lack of the living water that can only come from God. They are seeking to slake their thirst in all possible ways, but they have only found that the things of this world are much like eating too much salt. The more salty food we eat, the more thirsty we become.

Think of the millions of thirsty hearts this day, that are panting to have someone say to them, "Ho, every one of you who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!"

(Illustration of the penitent man and the priest)

Perhaps some of us may be in the position where we have thirsty hearts, and are involved in the search for God. Perhaps we may be feeling lost and alone amidst the crowd. Do you have a "Thirsty Heart," today? "Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters." Come to Him, who is "The way, the truth, and the life." Come to Him who will give living water, welling up to eternal life." "Incline your ear, and come to Him; hear, that your soul may live."

"A Change!"

Text: II Chronicles 7:14,

"MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND."

In 7th chap of 2 Chron is story of Solomon completing Temp of God prior

Actually, in several chaps ~~before~~ this Temp completed Chap 7 merely begins tell what happen after pr of dedi.

God causes fire come from heaven & consumes offerings brot to Temp.

When peop saw, they bowed selves to ground & worship saying, ~~xxx vs 2b~~

The fear of Lord came upon them & they acknowledged G. Told Sol offered huge sacrifices vs 5 And so House of God was dedicated.

They then came to Temp & with instruments made joyful noise

They made 7 day celebration for dedication

Then 7 day feast after

On 8th day following, or actually 15th day,

Sol sent all back to homes

Then we read, Sol finished all he had planned to do, & God appears to him at night & says, vs12,

God is saying the House is acceptable to Him

Then comes qualifying statement by God vs 13-14

The promise is conditional, IF MY PEOPLE.

It is not I WILL, but IF.

He will only bless IF they willing be humble,

IF willing pray,

IF willing seek His face,

IF willing forsake evil & seek good.

Then, & only then will He hear & forgive, & heal

What God is seeking is "A Change."

He doesn't want them be same old peop time after time

He doesn't want them come Temp off er sac for forgive

Only go away do same old thing time after time

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 1974

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR

MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST

MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR

JODIE MARTE, GORDON KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

HOLY COMMUNION - 7:30 P.M.

PRELUDE: "Lenten Prelude in A Minor" REED

SILENT MEDITATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 51 "ABIDE WITH ME"

*INVOCATION AND PRAYERS

CHORAL AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATT. 5: 14-24

*GLORIA PATRI

*EVENING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "PRAYER OF FAITH"

MARTIN

ANTHEM: "THE OLD RUGGED CROSS"

BERNARD

SERMON: "A CHANGE!"

COMMUNION HYMN No. 204 "BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE"

COMMUNION SERVICE - PAGE 32

EXHORTATION - CONFESSION - ABSOLUTION

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

SERAPHIC HYMN

THE INSTITUTION - CHORAL AMEN

AGNUS DEI

HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS AND COMMUNE WITH PASTOR)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - DOXOLOGY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 56 "NOW THE DAY IS OVER"

*BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "BENEDICTUS ES DOMINE" CALKEN

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD SO THAT OUR CHURCH'S RECORD WILL BE ACCURATE. IF VISITORS DESIRE TO RECEIVE CREDIT AT THEIR HOME CHURCH, PUT THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF EITHER YOUR PASTOR OR YOUR CHURCH ON THE BACK OF THE CARD AND IT WILL BE FORWARDED.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY - MARCH 1st. AT 7:30 -

EVANGELICAL ARMY CITADEL, 142 W. CUNNINGHAM ST.

USERS WILL PASS OUT COMMUNION CARDS AT THE DOOR.

3/

Families began speaking other families,
 Soon some went to merchants told of shoplifting &
 throwing.
 Made restitution
 Very soon whole city involved,
 A revival of trust, honesty, concern & care.
 The soon spread other areas until it has swept Canada
 All because several members looked within own hearts.
 This God is calling us to do tonite.
 He is asking look deep into self before partake Comm.
 If find hatred toward other member family, confess
 it & forgive that person.
 If find hatred or grudge against another man wong,
~~xxxxxxx~~ confess it & forgive that pers
 We to search very souls & not only seek forgiveness
 but to grant it.

If we ~~xxx~~ are Christian enuf tonite to forgive someone
 we should not only do this, but let that other person
 know about it.
 In this way we can open that person up to the HS, so
 that the healing power of the HS may work in him or h

I think God is looking at us tonite as we worship,
 He saying as said in 16th vs,
 Only He is saying to each individually tonite,
 "You are a temple that I have chosen in which to
 dwell. I have chosen you as a house of sacrifice,
 and if you, my people who are called by my name
 will humble yourselves, and pray and seek my face,
 and turn from your wicked ways, then I will hear
 from heaven, and I will forgive your sins and heal
 ur land."

He is saying, welcome to my Supper in memory of my Son.
 But partake of it worthily.
 Forgive others tonite, & I will forgive you.
 He is asking each of us for "A CHANGE."

2/

Tonite begin penitential journey of Lent
 will lead us thru passion of Lord & Saviour JC
 Each Wed. will look different direction of Js.
 Each Sun look at new Act passion play, as unfolds
 before eyes in Scripture
 All will culminate in death on Good Fri,
 & then the glorious RESURRECTION on Easter
 I hope all of you will strive not to miss a thrilling
 episode as it unfolds before our eyes. end
 Scrip for eve was not delivered by Js at ~~beg~~ of min,
 but at beg, in Ser, on Mt.

Js telling practical things
 telling, observe comm.
 He reinterprets commandments.

Says, if angry with broth almost same as angry & kill
 Are not insult broth or call him fool,
 if do, are subject wrath & condemnation of God.
 If come altar, bring gift, remember have something
 against broth, or against any other person actual
 1st get reconciled & then bring gift

paraphrased this admonition would read,
 "If you come to church to take communion & to observ
 my last supper, & while you are sitting there remembe
 that you have hatred in your heart for someone, or yo
 remember that you have said you will not forgive some
 one for something he or she has done, or if you know
 of someone who hates you & bears you ill-will, you
 must first pray for that person, or pray that you may
 find forgiveness in your heart toward those other
 people or God will not forgive you."

Js saying if want forgive, must 1st forgive.
 If u come Lord's Supper seeking forgiveness for sin,
 (Which, what it is for),
 U must be willing forgive forget all wrongs, hatred
 spites U have held in past.
 Only when we show forgiveness can we be forgiven.

Perhaps never looked at it in this life
 but it can effect change & bring about revival that
 defies description

Sermon preached on this very subject
 several peop of that cong thru HS working in them,
 went to others they had offended or toward whom held
 ill-will.
 Others spoke to peop never spoken many yrs same famil
 Reunions sprung up, peop talked, laughed, loved

"A Change!"

Text: II Chronicles 7:14,

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-24.

In the 7th chapter of the book of II Chronicles is a story of Solomon completing the Temple of God. Actually in several chapters previous to this he had completed the Temple and chapter 7 begins telling what happens after he had prayed the prayer of dedication.

God causes fire to come down from heaven to consume the offerings that had been brought to the Temple. When the people saw what was taking place they bowed themselves down to the ground and worshiped God saying, vs. 3b, "For He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." The fear of the Lord came upon them and they acknowledged the Lord.

We are told that Solomon offered huge sacrifices to God and the house of God was dedicated. They came to the Temple and brought the instruments to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. We read that this was a very joyful occasion and they held a seven day celebration for the dedication and a seven day feast following that. So on the 8th day or actually the 15th day after the celebrating had begun, Solomon sent them all back to their homes. Solomon is overjoyed because of the blessings of God. And we read that Solomon had finished all that he had planned to do and God appears to Solomon at night and says to him, vs. 12, "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice." In other words God is saying that this house is acceptable to Him and the sacrifices that are made there will be acceptable to Him.

But then God makes a qualifying statement about all of this. He says, "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND."

But this promise is conditional. It is IF MY PEOPLE. God is saying that He will only bless it if they are willing to be humble, If they are willing to pray, If they are willing to seek His Face, or to look to Him for their help and not rely on human beings. IF they are willing to forsake evil and seek good. Only then will God hear them and forgive ~~them~~ their sins, and heal their land.

What God is seeking from them is "A Change." He doesn't want them to be the same old people time after time. He doesn'T want them to ~~come~~ come to the Temple and offer their sacrifices for forgiveness only to go away and do the same old thing time after time.

Tonight we once again begin a penitential journey that will lead us through the passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Each Wednesday we will be looking at a different direction that the life of Jesus took during this period. Each Sunday we will be looking at a new act from the Passion play that unfolds before our eyes in the Scriptures. All of this will culminate in the tragic death on Good Friday, but in the glorious Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. I hope all of you will strive not to miss a thrilling episode of this drama as it unfolds before our eyes.

The Scripture that we read for this evening was not delivered by Jesus during the latter days of His ministry, but was instead delivered at the very beginning of it. This Scripture is taken from the Sermon on the Mount. In it Jesus is telling the people some very practical things. He is telling them for instance to observe the commandments. But then he goes into depth and re-interprets the commandments.

He says that mere anger with your brother is just about the same as actually getting angry and killing him. He says that we are not to insult our brother or call him a fool, because if we do we are liable to condemnation and the wrath of God. He says that if we come to the altar to bring our gift and realize while there that we have something against

another person, or another person holds ill-will toward us, we are to first get reconciled with that brother and then come and bring our gift to the altar. If we paraphrased this and made it read something like this, "If you come to church to take communion and observe my last Supper, and while you are sitting there remember that you have hatred in your heart for someone, or you remember that you have said you will not forgive someone for something he or she has done, or if you know of someone who hates you and bears you ill-will, you must pray first for that person, or pray that you may find forgiveness in your heart toward that other person, or else God will not forgive you," Jesus is saying that if you want forgiveness you must first forgive. If you come to the Lord's Supper ~~which~~ seeking forgiveness for your sins, which is what the Lord's Supper is for, then you must be willing to forgive and forget all wrongs and hatreds and spites that you have held in the past. It is only when we show forgiveness, that we are forgiven.

Perhaps we have never looked at it in this light, but it can effect a change and bring about a revival that defies ~~any~~ description.

A sermon was preached on this very subject in Canada and the Holy Spirit as (Check on this illustration) is so often the case, began to work in the hearts of a few people in that assembled congregation. Several who held grudges against other members, went to them and confessed their hatreds. Others who had not spoken to another member of their own family went to them and confessed this sin, and were reunited. Still others who had stolen and shoplifted, went to the merchants and confessed their crime and promised to repay the ~~items~~ owner for the stolen ~~items~~ items. Very soon, a revival of trust and honesty, and love was sweeping across an entire city. It soon spread to the surrounding area. All because several people in a local congregation were moved by the Holy Spirit of God to look within their hearts and to change.

This is what God is calling us to do today, tonight. He is asking us to look ~~within~~ deep within ourselves, before we partake of this Lord's Supper. And if we should find that we have a hatred for a member of

our immediate family, He is seeking us to confess it and to forgive that person. He is asking us if we have a grudge we hold against a member of this church family, we are to confess it and to ask for forgiveness. He is asking us to search our very souls and to not only ask for forgiveness by to grant it. If we find that we have not forgiven someone tonight and we find it in our hearts to forgive them, we should also let them know, so that the Holy Spirit may work its healing power in them as well.

I think God is looking at us tonight as we worship here, and He is saying in effect to each of us, "You are a Temple that I have chosen in which to dwell. I have chosen you as a house of sacrifice, and if you, my people who are called by my name will humble yourselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from your wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive your sins and heal your land." ~~He is asking for each of us for, "A Change!"~~

He is saying welcome to my Supper in memory of My Son, but partake of it worthily. Forgive others tonight and I will forgive you. He is asking each of us for, "A Change!"

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his
benefits,

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 3, 1974

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
PAM FRY, SHARI McBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "Nocturne" LEYBACH
"CHANSON FRIESTE" TSCHAIOWSKY

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 136 "HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA"

*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "IN THY GREAT MERCY HEAR US,
OUR FATHER, AS WE CONFESS OUR MANY SINS AGAINST THEE
AND OUR BRETHREN. FOR ALL ANGER AND SELF-WILL; FOR
ALL USE OF OUR STRENGTH TO BEAT DOWN THOSE WHO ARE
WEAKER; FOR EVERY UNHOLY DESIRE AND IMPURE THOUGHT;
FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY WHICH IS THE ROOT OF EVIL; FOR
HATREDS AND PREJUDICES WHICH INJURE OTHERS AND CORRUPT
OUR OWN SOULS; FOR LITTLE SACRIFICES ON BEHALF OF GREAT
CAUSES; FOR PLACING DEPENDENCE IN OURSELVES RATHER THAN
IN THEE, FORGIVE US, O LORD "THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR
SAVIOR AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: 10 LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 12: 1-17

HYMN No. 133 "RIDE ON! RIDE ON IN MAJESTY!"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"ELEGY"

MASSENET

ANTHEM: "THE PALMS" BY FAURE CHOIR, DICK BARTON

SERMON: "TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 138 "WHEN, HIS SALVATION BRINGS"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL"

BARNES

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FLEEGER IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN

REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KANIER, CHARLES PENAR.

MR. & MRS. EARL WOGAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE

DOOR TODAY.

*HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON 261; MRS. VIVIAN

BILAM 264; RICHARD NICHOLAS 388; MRS. HULDA LIPPOLD

454; MISS WINIFRED MCGRODY ~~688~~ - BCMH. MRS. CHARLES

(ELEANOR) McWILLIAMS IS IN BASHLINE HOSP. GROVE CITY.

*TONIGHT - 6:30 - YOUTH CHOR

7:30 - YOUTH MEETING - EACH YOUTH IS ASKED

TO BRING A PAIR OF SCISSORS.

*MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING.

*WEDNESDAY - 7:00 - LENTEN SERVICE - "HIS FAITH"

WEDNESDAY - 8:00 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE

HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

*LAST SUNDAY THE ATTENDANCE WAS 187 - WED. EVENING

LENTEN SERVICE WE HAD 156 IN ATTENDANCE.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. SHARON STAUFFER,

LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE McBRIDE.

REMEMBER NEXT SUNDAY EVENING AT 7:30 P.M. - ORDINATION

AND INSTALLATION OF OUR PASTOR - HERE AT OUR CHURCH

RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW IN THE SOCIAL ROOMS DOWNSTAIRS.

THE LILY CHART IS IN THE NARTHEX - IT WILL SOON BE

TIME TO ORDER LILIES FOR EASTER. SHOULD YOU WANT

ONE FOR THIS SUNDAY - WRITE YOUR NAME AND IN WHOSE

MEMORY YOU WANT IT ON THE SLIP.

*REMEMBER WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICE WILL BE

AT 7:00 INSTEAD OF 7:30 THIS WEEK BECAUSE OF COUNCIL

MEETING.

WELCOME VISITORS

"O Jeru, Jeru, killing the prophets & stoning those 2/
who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered
your children together as a hen gathers her brood under
her wings and you would not."

And a nother chap of Luke we read He wept over city
But w/ all his involvment with Jeru, becomes
suddenly clear he well aware course upon which he
has embarked one of hatred & hostility for him.

He realized at earlier point of life, he on collision
course with authorities.

He told disc "That he was going up to Jerusalem &
there he would suffer many things at the hands of the
chief priest and scribes and gentiles."

Triumphal entry into Jeru just beg of very eventful
& action packed week in life of Js.

If we can let minds wander a little & try visualize
scene before us, I am sure we can almost hear the
swelling roar of crowd as he turns bend in road.

All eyes intent upon road, anxiously awaiting 1st
glimpse this dynamic preacher.

All necks and heads, craning & straining to see him
more clearly when he appears.

From roar of crowd up road he is passing by there now
& will appear any moment now.

Now our turn to shout Hosanna even as they have done
for there he is riding slowly past our line of vision

Why he doesn't look like much of anything.

Just common looking man wearing common looking clothes
but yet, with air of regal poise about him.

A man who does indeed command our attention, & yet he
appears as tho he could mingle with any of us, just as
other peop have said.

He now passing beyond our sight & on down road, where
crowd waving, cheering, shouting, throwing palm branches
into path of slowly plodding donkey.

This scene would make anyone pause & reflect, if indeed
all crowd participating because in agreement with this
man

& they actually believed he was the one who came in the
name of the Lord.

Was he really Messiah to them?

Was this promised Son of David?

Was this deliverer of Israel?

Most likely bulk of crowd there because impromptu
parade had gotten started

Some sort local yokel was causing a stir.

"Tragedy To Triumph!"

Act I. "A City"

Text Mark 11:11,

"And he entered Jerusalem, and went into the Temple;
and when he had looked round at everything, as it was
already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve."

"All the world's a stage, and all the men & women mere
players," so wrote Wm. Shakespeare in Merry Wives of
Windsor.

If all world stage, then Js & peop of his time were
also actors upon scene even as we.

We can look our lives being acted out & also see Js
minis. took aspects of 1 large drama.

But rather than look total minis. let us look only
at portion of life that transpired during last week
of his life.

Let us look as tho play unfolding before eyes,
act by act, scene by scene.

This series Tragedy To Triumph, a play in 7 acts.

To day we will look at A City, Jerusalem.

Will be follow script in chronological order,
in case u wondering why Palm Sunday today.

When we eventually come Palm Sunday, hope will be
evident there is set purpose & meaning for presenting
this series in its proper ~~xxx~~ sequence.

Jerusalem for Js very significant place.

Here He first brot as baby, so mom could be purified
according Jewish law concerning woman & childbirth

(also here Simeon took babe in arms & blessed him.
Perhaps 1st time Mary began understand all of attent
to son, not accidental.

In Jeru. Js separated from parents, then found in
deep theo discussion with leaders & teachers in Temp.

To Jeru he now returning & where he acclaimed as
Messiah, the one who came, "In the name of the Lord

To Temp at Jeru he would return sever times last
Jeru days

Also to Temp he taken & tried by Pilate
Outside walls Jeru executed & also buried

So all in all city of Jeru very impott in life of Js
of Nazareth

If he was also concerned about city

In Matt 23, Luke 13 Js laments over Jeru, says,

For Js it trail by testing
tested his strength, faith, love

What will this lenten period test in us?
Will we look at selves in new light?

Will we examine closely our faith & how measures up
to faith of Js.?

Will we test strength by forgoing pleasure of life
in self-denial for a worthy Christian cause?
Will we test our love by renewed dedication to
church of Jesus Christ?

Or, will it be HO HUM, another boring period that
involves a lot of extra cleaning, & cooking & fussing
building up to another big holiday at Easter?

You & I are on stage of life at present time.

We involved very deeply whether want be or not, in
the play leading from Tragedy To Triumph.

Today we shout Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.

Is the end result that we too shout "Crucify Him,
Crucify Him" a few days later?"

May we not only acclaim him as Lord at this time of
the year, but may we acclaim him each day of our lives,
May we too know and feel and believe with the author of
Hebrews that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and
today and for ever.

His political adherents were showing him off to popul³
because town crowded tourists & peop there to celebrat³
feast of pass.

So why not join in with the celebration & raise a
hosannas along with rest local residents

Out of this several things emerge very clearly

Not merely taking joy ride down main st. Jeru
he was acting in fulfillment of prophecy made many
years before by Zechariah,

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud,
O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant & victorious is he, humble and riding on an
ass, on a colt the foal of an ass."

Then secondly setting stage for future actions.

As he rode along must been thinking things thru &
looking situation over very carefully.

Probably well aware, many, many these voices raised
in praise to him, would be shouting for his blood
few days.

Instead, warm friendly smiles, & happy shouts acclaim
probably able visualize sneers, jeers mixed angry
curses, that would replace these happy moments,
when he handed over to authorities.

He able to see crowd is fickle in loyalties
one day acclaiming him as national hero

next it would acclaim him as public enemy number 1

& So in scripture in Mark 11, we told matter of factly,
"He entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple; and
when he had looked round at everything, as it was al-
ready late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve."

"He looked at everything in the Temple," makes the
picture rather interesting at this point.

Why would he look at everything?

What was he looking for?

From the events next several days, evident he doing som
checking on conditions at Temp & plotting next moves.

When a man contemplating decision will have affect on
rest of life, he does so with very careful, serious,
deliberate consideration.

& so Js must have been doing this when "He looked at
everything."

So 1st act has come quickly to close, & all actors have
left stage & are settled in Bethany for the night.

Th³ once again we embarked on journey of Lent.

For each of us should be new adventure self-examination

⁷⁰
"Tragedy ~~and~~ Triumph!"

Act I. Jerusalem

Text: Mark 11:11, "And he entered Jerusalem, and went into the temple; and when he had looked ~~at~~ round at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve."

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." So wrote William Shakespeare in his play, "The Merry Wives of Windsor." If all the world is indeed a stage, then Jesus and the people of his time were also actors upon the scene even as we. We can look upon our lives as being acted out and we can also see that Jesus' ministry took on the aspects of one large drama. But rather than look upon the total life and ministry of Jesus, let us instead look only at that portion of His life ^{WHICH} ~~that~~ transpired during the last week of His life. Let us look at it as though it is a play unfolding before our eyes, Act by Act, and Scene by Scene.

I have entitled this series, "Tragedy ^{TO} ~~and~~ Triumph," a play in seven acts. Today we will look at act one which is Jerusalem. We will be following the script in chronological order, in case you are wondering why we ^{ARE} using the Palm Sunday story and events today. When we come to Palm Sunday I hope it will ^{BECOME} self evident that there ^{IS A SET} ~~is involved~~ ^{PURPOSE & MEANING FOR PRESENTING THIS SERIES IN ITS PROPER SEQUENCE.} ~~is involved in the story of Jesus' life and death~~. Jerusalem was for Jesus a very significant place. It was here that he was first brought as a baby, after 7 days, so that His mother Mary could be purified ^{ACCORDING TO} ~~according to~~ the Jewish law concerning a woman involved in childbirth. We find this recorded in the 2nd chapter of Luke. We also read there how Simeon the aged, devout man, took Jesus in his arms and blessed him. And how perhaps for the first time Mary began to understand that all of this attention to her son was not accidental. It was also in Jerusalem that Jesus became separated from His parents at the age of 12. I am sure we all remember the story of how they came looking for Him only to find Him involved ~~with~~ in deep theological discussion with the leaders and teachers in the temple.

It was to Jerusalem that He was now returning, and where He was acclaimed as the Messiah, the one who came, "In the name of the Lord." ~~It was from Jerusalem that He would be later taken and executed outside its walls.~~ It was to the temple in Jerusalem that he would return several times in His last days. It was also to Jerusalem that He was taken to be tried by Pilate. It was just outside the walls of Jerusalem that He was executed and buried.

So all in all the city of Jerusalem was very important in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. But He was also concerned about this city. We read in Matthew 23 and Luke 13, how Jesus laments over Jerusalem, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ~~stony~~ killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings and you would not!"

And in another chapter of Luke the 19th we read that He wept over the city. But with all of His involvement with Jerusalem, it becomes abundantly clear, that He was well aware that the course upon which He had embarked was one of hatred and hostility for Him. He realized at an earlier point in His life that His was a collision course with the authorities because He told His disciples that He was going up to Jerusalem and there He would suffer many things at the hands of the chief priests and scribes and gentiles."

The triumphal entry into Jerusalem was just the beginning of a very eventful and action packed week in the life of Jesus. If we can let our minds wander a little and try to visualize the scene before us, I am sure that we can almost hear the swelling roar of the crowd as he turns a bend in the road and all eyes are intent upon the road, anxiously awaiting the first glimpse of this dynamic preacher. All necks are strained and craning to see Him when He does appear. And from the roar of the crowd up the road He is passing ^{BY THERE} ~~He~~ now and will ^{APPEAR}

at any moment now. Now it is our turn to shout Hosanna even as they have just done, for there He is riding slowly past our line of vision. Why He doesn't look like much of anything. Just a common looking man wearing common looking clothes, but yet with an air of regal poise about Him. A man who does indeed command our attention, and yet He appears as though He could mingle with any of us just as people have said. He is now passing beyond our sight and on down the road where the crowd is waving and cheering and shouting as they too throw their palm branches into the path of the slowly plodding donkey.

The scene would make anyone pause and reflect, if indeed all of the crowd were participating because they were in agreement with this man and they actually believed He was one who came in the name of the Lord. Was He really the Messiah to them? Was this the promised Son of David? Was this the deliverer of Israel? More than likely the bulk of the crowd were there simply because some sort of impromptu parade had gotten started. Some sort of local yokel was causing a stir, and his political adherents were showing him off to the populace because the town was crowded with tourists and people there to celebrate the feast of the Passover. So why not join in with the celebration and raise a few Hosanna's along with the local residents?

SEVERAL THINGS EMERGE VERY CLEARLY.

But out of all of this ~~all these things emerge very clearly~~, Jesus was not merely taking a joy ride down the main street of Jerusalem. He was first acting in fulfillment of a prophecy made many years before by Zechariah, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass." Then He was secondly setting the stage for His future actions. As He rode along He must have been thinking things through and looking the situation over very carefully. He was probably very well aware that many, many of these voices raised in praise to Him, would be shouting for

~~But~~ His blood in a few days. Instead of the ~~smiles~~ warm friendly smiles, and the happy shouts of acclamation, He was probably able to visualize the sneers and jeers mixed with the angry curses that would replace these happy moments when He was handed over to the authorities. He was able to see that a crowd is fickle in its loyalties, that one day it was acclaiming Him as a national hero and the next it would acclaim Him as public enemy number one.

And so we are told that he matter of factly, "Entered Jerusalem, and went into the temple; and when he had looked round at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve." "He looked at everything in the temple," makes the scripture rather interesting at this point. Why would He look at everything? What was He looking for? Well, from the events of the next several days, it would appear that He was doing some checking on the conditions at the temple and plotting his next moves.

When a man is contemplating a decision that will have an affect on the rest of his life, he does so with very careful and serious consideration. And so Jesus must have been doing this when "he looked at everything."

So the first act has quickly come to a close and we find that all the actors have left the stage and are settled in Bethany for the night. Thus once again we are embarked on the journey of Lent. For each of us it should be an adventure of self-examination. For Jesus it was a trial by testing. It tested His faith, His strength and His love. What will this Lenten period test in us? Will we look at ourselves in a new and different light? Will we examine closely our faith and how it measures up to the faith of Jesus? Will we test our strength by foregoing some of the pleasures of life in self-denial for a worthy Christian cause? Will we test our love by our renewed dedication to the church of Jesus Christ? Or will it be, (ho hum), another boring period that involves

HIS FAITH

GENESIS 22:8, "ABRAHAM SAID, 'GOD WILL PROVIDE HIMSELF THE LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING, MY SON.'"

PIC. RE IN YOUR MINDS IF U WILL SETTING OF OUR SCRIPTURE.
ABRAHAM SPOKE TO BY GOD & HE RESPONDS BY DOING AS TOLD
RESPONDED TO LAST DETAIL & EVEN TO THE SLAYING OF SON,
BUT GOD INTERVENED
THIS STORY TEACHES MANY LESSONS CAN BE COMPARED TO LIFE OF JS.
1ST LET US LOOK AT STORY MUCH CLOSER.

DURING ABE'S TIME SACRIFICE OF CHILDREN COMMON THING
HUMAN SACRIFICES PERFORMED AT WHAT THOT DIVINE COMMAND
IF MAN THOT THIS TODAY & THOTS BECAME KNOWN, HE BE INSTITUTION
WORSE YET, IF HE PERFORMED ACT, ARRESTED FOR MURDER
THIS STORY CAN BE RATHER DISTURBING TO ANYONE READING IT,
& REQUIRES WE LOOK AT IT CLOSELY

HUMAN SACRIFICE AMONG CANNANITE TRIBES WAS A CUSTOM
TIME OF ELISHA ABOUT 800 BC, DURING CRISIS IN BATTLE FOR
MOABITE CAPITAL, WE READ II KINGS 3:27, KING OF MOAB, TOOK
HIS ELDEST SON WHO WAS TO SUCCEED HIM & OFFERED HIM AS A
SACRIFICE ON THE CITY WALL.

THIS SACRIFICE MADE TO PAGAN GOD
IF MEN WORSHIPING PAGAN DEITIES COULD CARRY THEIR RELIG
TO THAT EXTREME, HOW COULD ABRAHAM DO ANY LESS
THE ONLY WAY WAS TO DO AS OTHERS DID
SHOWING

ALL AROUND HIM WERE OBEDIENT PEOP ~~XXXXXX~~ THEIR FAITH TO
THE Pagan GODS

DEL. THE TORMENT & HIS LOVE FOR HIS SON
HE KEPT HEARING THAT INNER VOICE TELLING HIM TO SACRIFICE SON
COULD VERY WELL BE THAT MIND ~~WEX~~ DWELLING ON THESE THOTS,
THE THOT PRESSED UPON CONSCIENCE & HE INTERPRETED AS VOICE
OF GOD

WHATEVER CASE MAY BE, CLIMAX OF STORY IS REAL REVEL OF GOD
VOICE OF GOD PROVES TO SAY SOMETHING QUITE DIFF FROM
WHAT ABRAHAM THOT HE WAS SAYING

THE CLIMAX IS THAT GOD DID NOT WANT ISAAC SAC.

STORY ENDS ON NOTE OF HAPPINESS & NOT TRAGEDY
GOD SHOWED ABRAHAM TRUE TEST OF PERSONS LOVE IS NOT DETERMINED
BY WILLINGNESS TO SAC., BUT BY FAITH

I HAS NOT WILL OF GOD THAT ISAAC SHOULD PERISH & GOD NEVER
REQUIRES THAT WE SACRIFICE IN THIS WAY.
GOD REVEALED HIS TRUE NATURE WHEN HE STOPPED AB FROM DOING IT

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

Lenten Service MARCH 6, 1974
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
PAM FRY, SHARI MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

WED. - 7:00 -

PRELUDE: "THE HOUR OF DEVOTION" RATHBURN
SILENT MEDITATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 60 "SAVIOUR, BREATHE AN
EVENING BLESSING"

*INVOCATION - CHORAL AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON: GENESIS 22: 1-19

*GLORIA PATRI

*EVENING PRAYERS AND CHORAL RESPONSE
OFFERING

OFFERTORY "LENTEN MEDITATION" STAIRS

HYMN No. 475 "SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER"

SERMON "HIS FAITH"

SERMON PRAYER

*HYMN No. 221 "MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL" RAND

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE SERVICE THIS EVENING WAS SET AT 7:00 BECAUSE OF
COUNCIL MEETING. NEXT WEEK THE SERVICE WILL BE AT
30 P.M.

WE ARE HESITANT TO TURN THINGS OVER TO GOD,
MAYBE HE WILL NOT SOLVE THEM AS ~~WELL~~ WELL AS WE CAN

THIS IS PART OF WHAT GOD IS TRYING TO SAY TO US TODAY
BUT GOD IS ALSO TELLING US AS HE DID IN ABE & JS TIME,
DOES NOT WANT OUR SACRIFICES AS MUCH AS HE WANTS OUR LOVE
SEVERAL OF THE PROPHETS PREACHED AGAINST SACRIFICES
HOLY FOR ONE WROTE, "FOR I DESIRED MERCY & NOT SACRIFICES;
AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD MORE THAN BURNT OFFERINGS."
WHAT GOD REALLY WANTS FROM US IS OUR COMPLETE LOVE TO HIM

WE CAN BRING ALL OF THE OFFERINGS TO GOD, & WE SHOULD,
BUT IF WE DO BRING OURSELVES AS WELL, ALL OF OUR OFFERINGS
ARE USELESS & MEANINGLESS.

THE SAC JS MADE IS THE SAC GOD GAVE TO US
IF WE ACCEPT JS WE NOT ONLY INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE PROMISED TO
US, BUT WE SHOW LOVE TO GOD BY ACCEPTING HIS GIFT WHICH WAS
SO FREELY GIVEN

OUR FAITH SHOULD BE THE SUSTAINING FORCE IN OUR LIVES
IF OUR FAITH IS AS IT SHOULD BE, THEN WE CAN SING FROM
THE VERY DEPTHS OF OUR SOULS,

"MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE, THOU LAMB OF CALVARY,
SAVIOR DIVINE: NOW HEAR ME WHILE I PRAY, TAKE ALL
MY GUILT AWAY, O LET ME FROM THIS DAY BE WHOLLY THINE."

AB WAS BLESSED BECAUSE WILLINGNESS OBEY GOD WILL WHICH
HE BELIEVED MEANT SAC SON
BLESSED BECAUSE WILLINGNESS TO GO TO LIMIT TO SHOW HIS LOVE
THIS SORT SPIRIT ALWAYS MAKES MAN CAPABLE OF GREATNESS
BUT COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO WHAT HE BELIEVED
WHEN EVERYTHING MAN HAS IS COMMITTED TO WHAT HE BELIEVES
CAN REACH THE HEIGHTS
JULD THAT ALL OF US WERE OF THAT MIND,
BUT UNFORTUNATELY MOST US HOLD BACK
WE QUESTION "WHAT IF" INSTEAD TRUST GOD COMPLETELY

STORY OF AB & STORY JS VERY SIMILAR
GREAT DIFFER, ONE ABOUT MAN, HIS SON, HIS GOD
OTHER ABOUT GOD, HIS SON, & MAN.
ONE STORY SHOWS FAITH AB, OTHER SHOWS FAITH JS
EACH TRUSTED GOD TO EXTREME
EACH HAD COMPLETE FAITH THAT GOD WOULD SEE THEM THRU
THAT GOD WOULD WORK THINGS OUT AS HE CHOSE
THAT NO MATTER WHAT, GOD WOULD BE GLORIFIED

HAVE STRESSES FAITH OF ABE, BUT WHAT OF FAITH OF JS?
ONLY EXPLANATION THAT HE LEANED COMPLETELY UPON GOD
JS QUESTIONED HIS FATE, WHO WOULDN'T?
BUT WHEN DETERMINED THIS GODS WILL, & NO OTHER CHOICE,
HE ACCEPTED IT
THIS FAITH AT ITS STRONGEST, WE CANNOT COMPLETELY COMPREHEND

ANOTHER PARALLEL IS SACRIFICE
SAC OF ABE TO BE HUMAN, BUT SO WAS SACRIFICE OF GOD
SAC OF ABE TO BE SON, BUT SO WAS SAC OF GOD

THEN HAVE PARADOX, SAC OF ABE DONE FOR LOVE OF GOD,
SAC OF GOD DONE FOR LOVE OF MAN
THAT WHEN WE CONSIDER FAITH OF JS, & COMPARE WITH FAITH OF
ABE WE SEE MANY SIMILARITIES
BUT WE MUST ALWAYS ASK, WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US TODAY THRU
THE FAITH OF HIS SON & HIS SACRIFICE?
1st HE IS SHOWING US PERFECT EXAMPLE OF FAITH & TRUST IN STORY
OF JS

IF WE COULD POSSESS THIS COMPLETE UNQUESTIONING LOVE & FAITH
IN FATHER, CAN U IMAGINE WHAT CHURCH WOULD BE LIKE?
ALL PROBLEMS & DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE SOLVED
BUT THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH
ALL PROBLEMS ARE MAN MADE & MAN CAUSED BY OUR NARROW MINDED
HUMAN WAY OF HANDLING THINGS
THE REAL PROBLEMS ARE CAUSED BY WE PEOP WHO MAKE UP THE CHURCH
MANY TIMES OUR FAITH IS SO SHALLOW & WE DON'T HAVE THE COM-
plete TRUST IN GOD AS WE SHOULD

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 10, 1974
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
PAM FRY, SHARI, MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

- PRELUDE: "LARGHETTI QUOSI ANDANTINO" RAFF
SILENT PRAYER
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 65 "THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD"
*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN
*EXHORTATION
*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, WHO ART RICH IN MERCY
TOWARD ALL, WE CONFESS BEFORE THEE: ALL OUR DEEP CONCERN
OVER OUR OWN INTERESTS, AND OUR THOUGHTLESSNESS OF OTHERS;
OUR NEEDLESS ANXIETIES AND THE FRUITLESS FEARS WITH WHICH
WE DEFEAT OURSELVES; OUR TIMIDITIES IN THE FACE OF THY
CALLS TO DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY; OUR LOVE OF OLD ERRORS
AND OUR DISTRUST OF THE TRUTH WHICH WOULD LEAD US IN NEW
WAYS; OUR BLIND CONFIDENCE IN FALSE GODS, THE HIGHWAYS
INTO BETTER THINGS WHICH WE BLOCK FOR OTHERS AND FOR
OURSELVES BY OUR DESPAIR. PARDON US FOR ALL OUR SINS --
THOSE WE DO NOT KNOW, AND THOSE WE DARE NOT NAME, AND
LEAD US INTO THAT NEW LIFE WHICH IS HID WITH CHRIST IN
THEE. AMEN."
*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)
*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN
*PRAISE
*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS
*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE
*DOXOLOGY No. 551
SCRIPTURE LESSON MALACHI 3: 1-3; MARK 11: 15-19
HYMN No. 316 "JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL"
*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)
*GLORIA PATRI
*CALL TO PRAYER
*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.
*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.
*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.
PRAYER / PRAYER RESPONSE

- OFFERING
OFFERTORY "LENTEN MEDITATION" CROKER
DEDICATION
ANTHEM: "BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE" SWIFT
SERMON: "TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH!" ACT II. A CHURCH
PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER
*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 318 "NEARER, MY GOD TO THEE"
*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN
ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" KERN
----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----
THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
MRS. ELLEN BAUER IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES"
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *WALLY FEDER, MONT
MACKINNEY, STEVE VARGO, JOHN SNOW AND JAMES MALONEY.
NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. BARBARA VARGO
AND KAREN KENNEDY.
DEACON AND MRS. CHARLES PENAR WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL
AT THE DOOR TODAY.
➤ HOSPITALIZED: MR. FRANK MAXWELL, MRS. DORIS ZAVACKY,
MRS. BETTY FILSON, RICHARD NICHOLAS, MRS. HULDA
LIPPOLD, MISS WINIFRED MCGRODY - BCMH; MRS. CAROL
HALL - #124 ALLEGHENY VALLEY HOSP.
WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. & MRS. RODNEY RENSEL ON
BIRTH OF A SON.
➤ TONIGHT - 7:30 P.M. - ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF
OUR PASTOR. ANYONE NEEDING A RIDE CONTACT THE WILLIAM
PFLUGH'S - TELE. 285-6837. RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW IN
THE SOCIAL ROOMS OF THE CHURCH UNDERCROFT.
➤ THE ALTAR ON THE CHANCEL WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF MR. ^{For}
CLARENCE SHAKELY BY MISS CLARA SHAKELY, MISS FLORENCE ^{KIVIN}
SHAKELY, MRS. BRUCE, COLT, IND., CRUCIBLE INC., AND ^{CRUCIBLE}
CRUCIBLE MATERIALS RESEARCH CENTER, PITTS. PENNA. ^{CHANCE}
FRIENDS OF MR. SHAKELY'S SON - BRUCE SHAKELY.
➤ WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICE - 7:30 - "HIS LOVE"
IF YOU KNOW OF ANY PROSPECTIVE MEMBER THAT WOULD LIKE
TO JOIN THE CHURCH - PLEASE PUT THEIR NAME ON A SLIP
OF PAPER AND DROP IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR GIVE
IT TO THE MINISTER.
➤ THE LILY CHART IS BEING PASSED TODAY IN THE CONGREGA-
TION TODAY - ORDERS WILL BE PLACED SOON.
NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED ON PALM SUNDAY - ALSO
CONFIRMATION CLASS.

249 - JUNE 125 - WED.
WELCOME VISITORS - N. GL. & DUP.

2/

abuses selling pigeons, doves equally bad
 Pigeons, doves necessary certain sac
 birds to be pure & without blemish
 guarantee this, priests hired inspectors
 they examined birds before presented priest as offe
 Birds could be bot outside temp as well C of Gent
 But birds bot outside rejected unfit for sac.
 So buyer had purchase them in Temp area
 The abuse, birds bot outside as good as bot inside
 but conspiracy tween priest & inspector & sellers
 birds bot in Temp cost twice much as birds bot out
 so had to be bot in temp area be acceptable

Thus peop bilked, cheated, in name of relig
 Js merely seeking correct flagrant abuse
 but when chose do this, he challeng powers of Jews
 Temp shops known as booths of Annas & were property
 of hi priest
 This probably why Js bot to Annas after arrest
 Thus Annas able pay back for causing stir about
 temp monopoly

In Temp incident we see fulfillment of proph of Malach
 concerning Messiah.
 Malachi tells us, "Behold I send my messenger to pre-
 pare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek
 will suddenly come to his Temple."

This Js did, but besides coming suddenly ~~to~~ the Temp.,
 he was also responsible for fulfilling a portion of
 the remaining prophecy which was,
 "But who can endure the day of his coming, and who
 can stand when he appears? For he is like a re-
 finers fire and like fuller's soap; he will sit as
 a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify
 the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and
 silver till they present right offerings to the Lord

Those who felt wrath of Js certainly could not endure
 the day of his coming.
 And he was striving to cleanse the Temp. so that
 right offerings were presented to God.
 The priests came from the tribe of Levi,
 So when prophet says he will purify sons of Levi,
 he is saying that the Messiah will take the priests
 to task for their evil ways.

Malachi could have referred to 2nd coming of Christ,
 but his prophecy applied to the Temp as well
 But Js also concerned with exploitation of pilgrims
 coming to God

"Tragedy To Triumph!"

ACT II. A Church

Text: Malachi 3:1-3
 Mark 11:15b-17

Act II of lentendrama opens in Temp, we find Js & Dis
 upon return after nites lodging & rest in Bethany.
 1st act performed is one of violence & physical force
 Man who all along saying, "Love enemies, pray those
 hate you, turn other cheek, do good for evil."
 All of sudden doing opposite of preach & teach
 Surely must be reason for actions
 Or was Js over-reacting to gain attention of crow
 Was He merely trying assert dubious authority?
 Was He trying anger authorities?
 Just what was motive?

Order to answer must understand operation of Temp.
 Temp area covered top Mt. Zion, about 30 acres in exte
 Surrounded great walls each side & 1000 to 1300 ft lg
 Wide outer space Court of Gentiles
 Into this court Jew or Gentile could come
 At inner edge this court, tablets placed in wall
 Said if Gent passed that point it meant death

Next court, Court of Women
 Unless woman had actually come to sac. could go no
 Next, Court of Israelites further
 It here congregation gathered great occasions
 Also was from it that worshipers handed their
 offerings to the priests
 Inmost court, Court of Priests
 Was in Court of Priests that Temp itself stood

In Court of Gentiles was where incident involving Js
 took place.
 Thru yrs court become commercialized
 Meant as place prayer & prep but instead become
 hq selling birds animals, exchange money
 All this legal proper, but became means priests
 exploit peop make money

Each male Jew had pay Temp tax $\frac{1}{2}$ shekel yr
 payable only shekel of sanctuary
 many Jews came other countries to feast
 they had foreign money needed be exchanged
 they charged for this, but abuse of more charge
 than necessary
 coin exchangers same as loan sharks our day.

If we do we are acting like a private country club. 4/

This is what Js lashing out against.

Can we who bear his name do any less?

U. I are this cong.

We reflect it as tho we were a mirror

What do people see?

Do they see Js reflected in your face & mine?

Do they see him reflected in your life & mine?

Do they see him reflected in all of us collectively on a Sunday morning?

"Behold I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?"

Js came to the Temple & the priests & the people were unable to endure his coming, & were unable to stand when he appeared.

How would the ministers & the peop in the church today fare if he were to come, to the church in the same way?

He not only felt compassion, but wanted them 3/

to worship in freedom & tranquillity

This not possible with sellers hawking wares

& with hustle & bustle of business in Court

He concerned as Mark tells us,

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." - ~~Quote from Jer 7:11~~ Isa 56:7.

Mark is the only one who records this phrase & one wonders why.

But when we consider that the Court of the Gents was open to all outsiders, which meant all nationalities and peop from all nations,

then we understand why it written outsiders

This disturbed Js, since this only court open to

But all of this activity made it impossible ~~for a Gent. to worship God~~

Js let be known in minis that he concerned all peop & not just Jews

So why wouldn't he be angry if group discriminated again

He angry cause peop came encounter God

instead, encounter animals, birds, merchants using

all kinds gimmicks separate peop from money.

Js perhaps saw Temp used in exclusive way, & those not Jews being pushed aside

This danger in any church

If we members do not exercise Xpian love & Xpian discipline in church it can become exclusive club.

Illustration of St. John's U.C.C. in Wheeling & Vance Memorial Presbyterian

Laymen in service at Thanksgiving, Dale & I went cold, no welcome from 100 there.

Vance welcomed at door, taken to meet minister, this church of 1000 or more,

found home in that church, felt like lifetime member.

Hated to leave it.

It isn't the building, it isn't the size of cong.

It isn't the service, it isn't the liturgy.

It is THE PEOPLE and their attitudes that make or break a cong.

We must always examine our attitudes towards others

Are we warm, friendly? Do we greet strangers?

Do we make an effort to make people feel at home?

Do we get in our little groups before or following the service & not include anyone who may be standing on the outer fringes of our group?

"Tragedy To Triumph"

Act II - The Temple

Text: Malachi 3:1-3, "Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver till they present right offerings to the Lord."

Mark 11:15b -17, "And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons; and he would not allow any one to carry anything through the temple. And he taught and said to them, 'Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations?' But you have made it a den of robbers."

Act II of our Lenten drama opens in the temple where we find Jesus and His disciples upon their return, after a nights lodging and rest in Bethany. The first act He performs is one of physical force and violence. The man who all along has been saying, "Love your enemies, pray for those who hate you," ~~and~~ "If someone smacks you on the one cheek, turn the other one also," and here he is all of a sudden doing just the opposite of his teaching and preaching. Surely He must have a reason for His actions, or was He over-reacting to gain the attention of the assembled crowds? Was He merely trying to assert whatever dubious authority He possessed? Was He trying to anger the authorities? Just what was His motive? In order to answer these questions we must first understand something of the operation of the temple.

We are told that the temple area covered the top of Mount Zion and was about thirty acres in extent. It was surrounded by great walls which varied on each side and were 1000 to 1300 feet in length. There was a wide outer space that was called the Court of the Gentiles. Into this court anyone could come, Jew or Gentile. At the inner edge of

the Court of the Gentiles there was a low wall with tablets set into it which said that if a Gentile passed that point the penalty was death. The next court was the Court of the Women. Unless a woman had actually come to sacrifice she could not proceed farther. Next was the Court of the Israelites and in it the congregation gathered on great ~~xxxxxx~~ occasions, and it was from it that the offerings were handed by the worshipers to the priests. The inmost court was the Court of the Priests, and it was in the court of the Priests that the temple itself stood.

In the Court of the Gentiles was where this incident involving Jesus took place. Through the years this court had become very commercialized. It had been meant as a place for prayer and preparation but had become instead the headquarters for the selling of birds and animals and the exchanging of money. Now all of these enterprises were legal and proper, but what had happened was that this became a means for the priests to exploit the people and make a lot of money.

~~The Jews each had~~ Every male Jew had to pay the temple tax of one half shekel a year. This was only payable in shekels of the sanctuary, and since many of the Jews came from other countries to the Feast, they had foreign money which had to be changed into shekels of the sanctuary. They were charged for this coin exchange, but the abuse was that they were charged much, much more than was necessary. The coin exchangers were doing the same thing that the loan sharks do in our country.

The abuses concerning the sellers of pigeons or doves was equally bad. Pigeons or doves were necessary for certain sacrifices, and the birds had to be pure and without blemish. In order to guarantee this the priests had hired inspectors of the birds, who examined them before they were presented to the priest for ~~an~~ an offering. Birds could be bought outside the temple as well as in the Court of the Gentiles. But birds ~~outside the~~ purchased outside the temple were rejected as being

unfit for sacrifice and so the buyer had to purchase them in the temple area. The abuse here was that birds bought outside were just as good, ^{THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY BETWEEN} but ~~between~~ the sellers in the temple ~~and~~ the priests and the inspectors, ~~THEY WERE~~ ~~CELEBRATING~~ Birds bought in the temple would cost twice as much as those bought outside and in order for a bird to be acceptable to the inspector it had to be purchased in the temple.

Thus we can see that people were being cheated and bilked, and all in the name of religion. So Jesus was merely seeking to correct a flagrant abuse. But when He chose to do this He was challenging the powers of the Jews for these temple shops were known as the booths of Annas and were the ~~prop~~erty of the family of the high priest. That is probably why Jesus after his arrest was first brought to Annas, for Annas could help pay Him back for causing such a stir about his temple monopoly.

We see in this incident several things. First we can see the fulfillment of a prophecy made by the prophet Malachi concerning the Messiah. Malachi tells us, "Behold I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple." This Jesus did, but besides coming suddenly to the temple he was also responsible for fulfilling a portion of the remaining prophecy which was, "But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver till they present right offerings to the Lord."

Those who felt Jesus' wrath certainly could not endure the day of his coming. And he was striving to cleanse the temple so that right offerings would be presented to God. The sons of Levi were the priests and Jesus was lashing out at them in this incident. Malachi could very well have been prophesying what we refer to as the Second Coming of Christ, the wording and phraseology would indicate this, but

his prophecy certainly applied very well to this situation in the temple.

We can also see in this incident that Jesus was concerned with the exploitation of pilgrims coming to worship God. He not only felt compassion for them, but wanted to make it possible for them to worship in freedom and tranquility. But this was not possible for them with the sellers hawking their wares and the hustle and bustle of business taking place in this court. He was concerned as Mark tells us, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations." We only find that last part recorded in Mark, "A house of prayer for all nations." Why would Mark put that in?

The only answer possible is that the trading and the selling took place in the Court of the Gentiles, and this disturbed Jesus, since this was the only court of the temple that was open to outsiders. In other words only Non-Jews were supposed to be permitted here ^{For women on sabbath} and all of this activity made it impossible for any Gentile to worship God if he wanted to. Jesus let it be known in His ministry that He was concerned with all people and not just the Jews. So why wouldn't He be angry when one group of people was being discriminated against in worship? He was angry because people came there to encounter God and ~~xxxx~~ instead encountered animals and birds being sold, and all sorts of gimmicks to separate people from their money.

Jesus also saw that perhaps the temple was ~~xxxx~~ being used in an exclusive way and those who were not Jews were being pushed aside. This is really the danger in any church. If we as members do not exercise Christian love and Christian discipline in the church it can evolve into an exclusive club.

When we lived in Wheeling, I decided to attend a Thanksgiving service since I had no preaching obligations for that day, and I was also looking for a ~~home~~ church home to attend on the Sundays that I was not preaching. So I took Dale with me and we went to a U.C.C.

church in downtown Wheeling. There were about 100 or more people at the service. A layman took charge of the service and he ~~spoke~~ did a very good job. The service was fine, but the people weren't. Out of all of those in attendance there wasn't one that even said good morning. I checked into a little of their background and I discovered they had been without a pastor for about 2 years and were unable to get one. And I think I know the reason why. I contrast this with the large Presbyterian church I went to a short while later. Here is a church that has a membership of between 1000 and 2000, and the very first time I stepped into that church I was made welcome. A man greeted me at the door and wanted to know all about me. After the service he personally came to me and took me to meet the minister and introduced me.

We found a home in that church and when we came here it was like leaving a church that we had attended all our lives. But you see it isn't the building, or the size of it. It isn't the service or ~~any~~ the liturgy. It is the people and their attitude that makes or breaks a congregation. We must always examine our attitudes towards other people. Are we warm and friendly? Or are we cold and indifferent? Do we greet strangers? Or do we let them find their own pew to sit in and ignore them? Do we make an effort to speak to those who come into our church for the first time or do we figure that is the preachers job? Do we get together before or after the service in our own little cliques and ignore someone standing on the outer fringe of it? When was the last time we made an honest effort to shake hands with someone who was visiting, even though that person was on the other side of the church and it meant we had to go out of our way to do it?

These are all questions we must ask ourselves and if we find we have not been acting in a friendly manner then we need to change. If we find that we are too private clubbish, then we need to make an honest effort to include others in our private club. This is what Jesus.

was lashing out at. Can we who carry His name do any less? You and I are this congregation. We reflect it as though we were a mirror. What do people see? Do they Christ reflected in your face and mine? Do they see Him reflected in your life and mine? Do they see Him reflected in all of ^{us} collectively on a Sunday morning?

"Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple," ~~2 speaks the prophet~~
"But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?"

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

WENTEN SERVICE MARCH 13, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
PAM FRY, SHARI MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

PRELUDE MUSIC: WED. EVE. - 7:30 P.M.
"EVENING PRELUDE" CLARKE
"MEDITATION" NOLTE

SILENT MEDITATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 466 "HE LEADETH ME"

*INVOCATION - CHORAL AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 15: 1-17

*GLORIA PATRI

*EVENING PRAYERS AND CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "ANDANTE, LEU, SOSTENUTO" NICODE

HYMN No. 469 "I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR"

SERMON: "HIS LOVE"

SERMON PRAYER

*HYMN No. 55 "SUN OF MY SOUL, THOU SAVIOUR DEAR"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "GRANT US THY PEACE" GOUNOD

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THURSDAY - MARCH 14 - 7:05 - BROADCAST OF COUNCIL

OF CHURCHES - BASKETBALL (SENIORS) - 97.7 ON THE

WIAL - WBUT-FM - CHUCK McWILLIAMS WILL BE HOST FOR

THE EVENING. turn dial to WISH AM, then switch to FM

& this approx WBUT FM

SOFTBALL PLAYERS - SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX IF YOU

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY SOFTBALL.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN EASTER LILY FOR THE

CANCEL ON EASTER CALL BEA TAIT. FOR FOUR (4) BLOOM

LILIES IT WOULD COST \$4.00.

FOR LOCAL

WELCOME GUESTS

UNABLE SPEAK ABOUT ORATION

"RIP. COMM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS" 2ND FL. APT.

19TH 6:30 - CONTACT BOB KNAVE OR

Don KENEDY

KITCHENS
SLATE FOYERS

BATHROOMS
MARBLE SILLS

FREE ESTIMATES

TELEPHONE: 586-2131

R. D. No. 1
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RALPH C. LINK

Lenten Music
The Greater Love

Text: John 15:13, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Dr. George Matheson once said of a hymn he wrote, "I composed it at the manse in Innellan on the evening of June 6, 1882. I was alone at the time. It was the day of my sisters marriage and all of the family was at Glasgow. Something had happened to me which was only known to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering. This hymn was the fruit of that suffering. It was the quickest bit of work I ever did in my life. I had the impression of having it dictated to me by some inward voice rather than working it out myself. I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction."

Thus came into being those memorable words;

"O love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer fuller be.

The thing that makes this hymn rather special is the fact that its author Goerge Matheson could write of a love that would not let him go, and yet, ~~the source of this love~~ he had been stricken with blindness at the age of 15. Had he been born blind, one could say that he was capable of accepting this handicap and ~~learning~~ ^{had} learned to live with it. But here he is telling of a love that is all consuming, a love that will not leave him or let him go, and he speaks of it in the manner of a strong faith. ~~Isn't this~~

Isn't this reminiscent of another person? A person who once said, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus accepted this greater love. He knew that his entire life was wrapped up and ^{also} involved in an all consuming love. A love from which he could not possibly turn, try as he might. A love that would not let him go no matter where he turned or where he went.

A grade school teacher in her arithmetic class asked the following question; If your father sold fifteen hundred bushels of grain for \$2 per bushel, what would he get? One little boy answered, "A new car." ~~He knew his father~~ It's apparent he knew his father. So did Jesus. He realized that through the ordeal of sacrificing his life, his father would take care of him. *HIS FATHER'S LOVE WOULD NOT LET HIM GO.*

The ~~next~~ two verses of this hymn continue along the same theme of faith in the father.

"O light that ~~seekest~~ followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshines blaze its day
May brighter fairer be.

O joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall ~~tearless~~ tearless be.

There are many examples of rather famous men and women who have overcome handicaps in life and have kept a strong and true faith in their father which we could cite. However to do this many times implies that all we need do is look at their example and we too can solve our problems. This is one ~~thing that is~~ thought that is ~~is~~

involved in great controversy today. The familiar American theme of life has been the Horatio Alger success story for a long time. I think we are familiar with the pattern of it. A certain poor boy or girl through ^{HARD} work and application reaches the pinnacle of success. This is the pattern we must follow, that is working and applying ourselves to the best of our ability, but to say that we will end up as number one in the state or the country or world is erroneous. To set before us examples of famous men and women and imply that if we follow their pattern exactly ~~we~~ everything will turn out right is misleading. However, we must realize that we are each one a unique individual. This does not mean to imply that we cannot use some of the guidelines of the lives of others to improve our lives. As individuals we control a goodly portion of our future. We can make life miserable if we so desire, & We can make life happier if we so desire. *IT IS UP TO US*

I do not think we need go into much detail about this. I am sure we all know how we could make our individual lives worse or better. But one thing we need to know and that is, that our father is with us, and that our faith in him should and must grow each day if we are to strive for a better life. Christianity is full of many paradoxes. Jesus pointed many of them out. He said if we would have life, we must first lose it. How can we lose our life and still have it? *HE SAID* ^{HE SAID} If we have someone who hates us we must love him. How can we overcome hate with love? *HE SAID* ^{HE SAID} If we would be first, we must be last, if we want to follow him we must give ourselves up to do so. All of these and many more are strange to our thinking and in fact the exact opposite of true life as we know it. But all of these paradoxes have real purpose and real meaning if we seek to be a follower of Christ.

Losing our life for him in order to have life means that this life has joy in sorrow, peace in time of conflict, and many other strange unexplainable paradoxes as well. This is only possible because

God is there with us, in all things. This then is the true meaning of the word Emmanuel, "God with us."

Mr. Mattheson knew this and found it in his life. Jesus knew this and found it in his life. Many other people have found this as well, and so should we.

(Illustration of astronomer) and God) *HAN GREAT IS OUR GOD? DOES HE CARE?*

Yes, God does care. He cared enough that he sent his Son into the world, that though him the world might be saved.

O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust lifes glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

I have used this hymn at several funerals, because I think it speaks of what our Christian life and belief should be, and in particular the last verse. But more importantly it also imparts a strength that is needed as well as joy in a time of sorrow.

The writing of this hymn involved inspiration throughout its composition. I mentioned that Mr. Matheson wrote the words in a matter of about five minutes. Dr. Albert Peace who wrote the tune for it tells that there was no suitable music to set the hymn to. So he was requested to write a tune. He wrote that he took the hymn and read it over very carefully and after this, quote, "I wrote the music straight off, and may say that the ink of the first note was hardly dry when I had finished the tune." Not only was the author inspired but the writer of the music. ~~And certainly must have been speaking to someone~~
(Illustration of lost boy and who found whom?)

We have a phrase that is used in relation to religion.
We say that - "So and so found the Lord." *BUT THIS ISNT EXACTLY CORRECT*
~~But~~ The Lord has never been

lost. Who has been seeking whom we must ask? God has sought man
 and it is man who has been lost. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ God
 has sought us and is still seeking. ~~Jesus said~~ "The Son of man is
 come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10, Jesus said.
 "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his
 friends." ~~For this~~ Jesus laid down his life and because of Him we
 can also add, "And from the ground there blossoms red, (not death)but),
life that shall endless be."

THREE EIGHTS
 EVANGELISTS

THREE EIGHTS
 EVANGELISTS

THREE EIGHTS
 EVANGELISTS
 B. O. NO. 1
 EVANGELISTS
 B. O. NO. 1
 EVANGELISTS
 B. O. NO. 1
 EVANGELISTS

"His Love!"

Text: John 15:13,

"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

When we look at the directions that the life of Jesus took, we become very much aware that one of the directions was in the realm of love. We need only look at his life and we can discover this in very short order.

The rich young man came to Jesus and asked what he had to do to inherit eternal life. And Jesus told him, and we read, in Mark 10:21, "Jesus looking upon him loved him." The Apostle John wrote more about the love of Jesus than any other writer. We read how he wrote that Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, how Jesus wept over the death of Lazarus and the Jews remarked, "See, how he loved him." He wrote of Jesus saying, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." And again, "For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me."

In his Epistles, this same Apostle wrote over and over again of the love of Jesus. So it is evident that Jesus whole life and existence is built on love. He spoke of it many times. He said, love your enemies. Love those who despitefully use you. Do good to those who hate you and so on.

Dr. George Matheson once said of a certain hymn that he wrote, "I composed it at the manse in Innellen Scotland on the evening of June 6, 1882. I was alone at the time, It was the day of my sister's wedding and all of the family was at Glasgow. Something had happened to me which was known only to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering. This hymn was the fruit of that suffering. It was the quickest bit of work I ever did in my life. I had the impression of having it dictated to me by some inward voice rather than working it out myself. I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction."

Thus came into being those memorable words that all of us have sung so often.,

love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer fuller be."

George Matheson the author could speak of ~~xi~~ a love that would not let him go, and yet he had been stricken with blindness at the age of 15. He had been rejected by his fiancée, and some people believe this was the burden on his heart that he spoke of in reference to this hymn. But he writes in the hymn of a love that is all consuming, a love that will not leave him, nor let him go. Isn't this reminiscent of another person? The person of Jesus Christ. The one who spoke in our ~~scripture~~ tonight and said, Greater Love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." He knew that his life was wrapped up in love.

A grade school teacher asked her class in math the question; "if your father sold 1500 bushels of wheat for \$2.00 per bushel, what would he get?" One little boy answered, "A new car."

It's apparent that this boy knew his father. So did Jesus. He knew that no matter what, His Father was there with this all consuming love, that He could go forth and give his very life in love, because in return he would have the love of His Father, that would never let him go.

The Christian life that Jesus has left us to live, is filled with many strange paradoxes. He gave them to us and he expects us to follow them. He said for instance, if someone hates us we must love him. How do you possibly love someone who shows hatred? He tells us, if we would be first we must be last. How can anyone possibly be first if he is last? He said, if we would have life, we must first lose it. How could we possibly live, ~~and~~ if we must lose our lives? All of these are strange things, and are the exact opposite of true life as we know it. But all of these paradoxes are real, and have a real meaning if we seek to be a follower of Jesus.

Losing our life for Him in order to have life, means that ~~we~~ this
life for a Christian can have joy in the midst of sorrow, peace in the midst of
conflict, life in the midst of death, and many other unexplainable paradoxes
as well. But all of this is only possible because God is there with us in all
THINGS & IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

It is only when we truly know this Son of God to the fullest, that we can completely understand what he was saying and doing in the sacrifice of Himself on the cross.

(Illustration of civil war substitute, or seaman substitute)

HE TOOK MY PLACE. HOW WONDERFUL
We can see in this incident that the individual who gave up his life willingly, was doing exactly as Jesus had said, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." JESUS DID THIS FOR YOU AND FOR ME.

We could cite many examples of this type of love that has been expressed in the sacrifice of one life for another. But perhaps when we are speaking about some of these incidents, we may feel, and perhaps rightly so, that we may never be involved in that type of thing. We may never be required to sacrifice ourselves for someone else.

But there is in each of us, that spark, that something, that would have us gladly give of ourselves for someone else. This does not mean in just the giving up of this life, but of the outward sharing of ourselves. A GIVING OF LOVE

"A young lady thought she had written some beautiful poems about love, and she desired to have them published. After she had arranged to have an interview with the editor of a publishing house, she sat in his office talking to him. The man asked, "what makes you think you know about love? Let me hear some of your poetry, but first tell me what you think love is." The girl began, "Love is, gazing upon a lily pond at night, when the lilies are in full bloom and the moonlight is shimmering upon the water, and ---" "Stop, stop, stop," cried the editor. "You are wrong, wrong, wrong. I will tell you what love is, Love is getting up out of a warm bed on a cold winter night morning, at two o'clock, to care for your ailing children. That is real love. I am sorry we cannot use your poems."

This is the love Jesus was speaking of and was showing in his sacrifice. A modern song tells us, "~~all you need is love~~ love, love, love, all you need is love." This may be true, but more than love is needed. It is the addition of self to that love that makes it worthwhile. It is the complete giving of self that is needed. Not necessarily the giving up of life, but the complete surrender of self in love and then if necessary to give up life because of love. This is what Jesus was saying and was showing in His love. This is what he wants from us, that when we see someone in need, we reach out in love, with no thought of reward. This then is all that Jesus said in our text "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends but it is all wrapped up more simply in the words of the Apostle John, when he writes, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent His Son." This is and was "His Love," his love for you and me and the world.

Discip of obed gotten waylaid in world today 2/
We talk lack of obed to laws, to governments,
most especially to laws of God

More those tell us "Must do all things, experience
all things in order know what good & bad for us."
This all wrong.

No need kill, know not right
No need steal, know not take others property.
no need get venereal disease, know to be moral

God gave certain laws we must abide by be obed to
these 10 command

in order to keep, do not need break
must discip selves to keep
this Js did

from very earliest we know he did

from life Js lived, examp for us of Xpian obed
it Xpian cause it speaial discip.

it require more love, more understand, any other
we prove by compare other discips

What law of animals?

Survival fittest, right?

other words, look out self, forget others

But with Xpian disip & obed, look out others, care
those need care, help helpless etc.

No send off die like eskimo

we love as self, or supposed to.

What law of savages?

kill or be kill, right?

Xpian obed & discip, love enemies, do good those
hate.

all this Js say over & over

but do not mean be mummy pambies afraid shadow
this mean try solve problems peacefully,
no can do, use other means

Js showed both sides.

life of love, force in the temp

Js always be yardstick for us

He examps not obsolete some try have believe

they done in his period, but apply 20C as well

If each person practice obed of Js, Xpianity grow
leaps, bounds.

Simply cause we be examp of Xpian obed.

Story late ~~Ghandi~~ Mahatma Ghandi India)

wanted talk British church officials, no time,
brushed off.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP March 14, 1971

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 157
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst give thy life
for us that we might receive pardon and peace,
mercifully cleanse us from all sin, and ever-
more keep us in thy favor and love, who livest
and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end. Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture---Hebrews 5:1-10
*The Gloria Patri
Anthem (Trinity)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 144
The Sermon---Lenten Reflections
"Obedience of Christ"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 462
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The special offering for One Great Hour of
Sharing will be taken next Sunday March 21st
in both Churches. Special envelopes are in
the envelope sets for Christ Church members
and special envelopes are on the table in the
rear of Trinity Church. Won't you consider
making some sacrifice this Lenten Season for
those in need?

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Win-A-Chum Class will conduct worship services
this afternoon at 2:00 P.M. at the Kinkora Home.

The Women's Guild will meet on Tues. March 16th
at 7:30 P.M. here at the Church. This will be
the Lenten Quiet Hour Meeting.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Week Community Lenten services will be
held Wed. evening March 17th at 7:30 P.M. at
St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church. Your
pastor will be the speaker.

At the regular Consistory Meeting the following
officers were elected to serve for one year:
Vice Moderator: Joe Darlington, Sr.
Recording Secretary: Helen Lyons
Treasurer: Roy Snyder
Financial Secretary: Lee Boggs
Ralph Bailor was chosen to fill the unexpired
term of Stanley Hair.

saw so called Xpian treatment his people.
Made remark, wanted become Xpian, but Xpians saw
heard in action not Xpians they talk about.
He lost to Xpian world, many millions with him

3/

work of missionaries became more difficult,
cause Xpians talkers & not doers

We are to obey, as Paul tells us, "That you may
be blameless and innocent, children of God without
blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse
generation among whom you shine as lights of the
world."

Contrast this with many a modern day Xpian.
sing of love on Sunday, show hatred other days.
talk of obed & obey only selfish desires motives
rest week.
pray for peace & fight with neighbors

So see, must not be obed will of Father,
but must start toward obed by discip selves do God's
will.

Not just now, this season, but all of life.

Hymn speaks of, "Teach me O Lord thy holy way, and
give me an obedient mind."

Hymns like this should be not only songs we sing,
but prayers on lips, thots in minds
that make aware God's will for us

Next time tempted tell someone off,
pay back for what done us,
ask question, "Whatv Jesus do in this case?"

W parents expect obed of children,
but what of our personal obed in our lives?
Perhaps each strive be more obed to God,
we see change in families, personal lives,
& in many other areas of life.

This another lesson Js taught with his life.
Let us seek follow all his footsteps & not just
pick out the ones that are easiest follow.

"He became obedient unto death, even death on a
cross,"

This is obed we cannot match,
but it obed that should strive emulate.

The Obedience of Jesus

Text: Acts. 5:29

For the past few Sundays we have been talking about the qualities which Jesus possessed. We said that He possessed faith, that He possessed love, and that He possessed courage. Today we are going to talk about His obedience. This was one of the greatest qualities that Jesus had. In the Bible concordance by Alexander Cruden, the word obedience is defined as, ^{QUOTE} "the word obedience is most often used in the Bible in the sense of subjection to the will of God, and to His commands. It is used in speaking of Jesus who always did the will of God." ^{UNQUOTE} Jesus was the perfect example of obedience. Paul states that "Jesus was obedient unto death even death on a cross."

We first learn of the obedience of Jesus in the story that is told of the annual visit of His family to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When they were returning home they discovered that He was not with the caravan. Going back to Jerusalem they found Him in the Temple mingling with the learned men. His reply was that He had to be about His Father's business. He didn't show any signs of having missed His parents, nor did He show any signs of having been homesick. In fact His reaction was not the normal reaction of a 12 year old boy. But we must consider that this was not a normal 12 year old boy. This was the growing Son of God. The Messiah. But here He showed His obedience to God by wanting to learn of Him and to be in God's Temple with those who were learned in the law and religion.

Then we read of the obedience of Jesus in the temptation in the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry. He spent this time meditating upon His mission and trying to wrestle with and overcome the temptations that would arise during His ministry. He knew that pride would come into His life. He also knew that the temptation to use the power at His command for His own selfish desires would come to Him also. These are the temptations that face all men. Pride in the accomplishment of a good job well done, pride in ourselves or in those of our families. The evil of power is a very powerful thing as we can

witness by the use that some leaders have made of it with certain nations of the world. We can also witness it in parts of our state where elected officials have sought to use their power for their own good. These were the evils Jesus was striving to fight. Here He showed His obedience to God by proving that He wanted to serve Him by living as close and as near to God as He could, and this meant throwing anything and all things ^{out of His life} that would ~~distract~~ or take away from this devotion. ^{DETRACT}

The third example of the obedience of Jesus is found in the events leading up to His crucifixion and death. This is the most vivid example and probably by far the best remembered. Here is obedience in the very fullest and truest form. ~~All of~~ The qualities of faith, love and courage were all needed and called upon to go to the limits which this ordeal required. To be able to give up life so freely and willingly requires one other thing that goes hand in hand with obedience and this is discipline. The discipline of control of the emotions, of the body and of the spirit. This could only come from a life that is centered around God. It could only come from a life that is lived in God, where every breath is practically breathed with God. This was the discipline of Jesus.

In our world today we hear many times the mention of the word obedience. Most of it is in reference to civil rights. The word is then civil obedience or disobedience. But the thing that is always borne out by the news which we read is that discipline has somehow gotten waylaid. To place this argument in logical order let us look at an example. Suppose there is a young child here on the chancel and he wants to touch the candles that are burning. The proper thing to do is to tell him that he should not touch them because he will get burned. If he would persist in trying to touch the flame, then a tap in the proper place would show him that when we said something was not to be done, then this was what was meant. This would be learning obedience through discipline. It isn't proper to let him get burned just to teach him obedience. This would not only be harmful it would be cruel and inhuman to the child.

But if he learned that when we said no to something then he would associate the word no for things that were not good for him. Thus he could be spared the pain of burns, and scalding and every other misfortune that could befall him, if he had to experience the misfortune in order to understand what was not good for him. So you see in order to be obedient we must first be disciplined.

God gave man certain rules to live by. We call these the ten commandments. Now in order to keep the ten commandments we don't have to break them do we? Of course not. Probably one good reason is that we would be punished if we broke some of them. But aside from that we know that it would not be doing the will of God. Since we call ourselves Christians and are trying to live the Christian life it is in our best interests to keep the commandments. Therefore we have disciplined ourselves to do so, haven't we?

This is what Jesus did. He disciplined Himself from the very earliest story we have of Him. Therefore we can call this Christian discipline. A reason for putting the name Christian in front of it, is due to the fact that this is a special discipline. This is a discipline that requires more love and understanding than any other discipline. We can prove this by comparing it with the disciplines of life. What is the basic law of animals? Survival of the fittest isn't it? In other words look out for yourself and forget about anyone else. But with Christian discipline it becomes the loving and sharing with those who are weak and ill. It means trying to help those who cannot help themselves. We don't just send them off somewhere by themselves to die as some eskimo tribes do, we care for each other and help each other. We love our neighbor as ourself. Or try to.

Then what is a basic law of the savages? Kill or be killed isn't it? But here again the Christian discipline is one of love. Love your enemies and pray for them. If someone strikes you on one cheek turn the other also. These are words of Jesus. These are words we should live by. Now this is not to say that we are to be little mamby pambies who are afraid of our shadows.

This means that we are to first try and solve our differences with peaceful means and then if this doesn't work ~~th~~^{EN} we must use force if this is the only alternative. Jesus showed us both of these examples when He showed love to those who did not love Him, and He showed force to those who desecrated the Temple with their moneymaking. Jesus should always be the yardstick by which we measure our lives. The examples He set are not obsolete as some people would have us think. They were done in the period in which He lived, but we can update any and all of them and apply them in the twentieth century as well.

If each person who is a follower of Jesus would practice the obedience of Jesus, Christianity would grow by leaps and bounds. The story is told of the late great Hindu Mahatma Gandhi in India. At one time he was very interested in Christianity. At this time the British were governing India. Mr. Gandhi wanted to talk to some of the British Church officials and they informed him that they did not have the time to spare him. Then he saw how some of these Christians acted toward the Indian people. Because of these incidents he made the remark that he wanted to be a Christian, but the Christians he saw talked of one thing and did something else. As a result he remained a Hindu and was not only lost to the Christian Church, but the thinking of some very intelligent people is that Christianity lost thousands of Indians because of this. The reason for this is that the Indian people did whatever Gandhi did. Then too the work of the missionaries in India became much more difficult, because the word was out that Christians were only talkers and not doers. This is still ^{PHIL. 2:15} very true today. Many people come to Church on Sunday morning and sing about love, and on Monday show hatred. Many people talk about obedience and on Monday and the other days of the week obey only their own selfish desires and motives. We pray for peace and we can't even have peace with our next door neighbor. So we see we must not only be obedient to the will of our Father, but we must start toward this obedience by disciplining ourselves to do God's will. Not just today, but the other days of this week and the weeks ahead. One of our

hymns we sing is, teach me O Lord Thy holy way, and give me an obedient mind. The hymns we sing should not be just songs we like to sing or pretty tunes to . They should be prayers upon our lips, and thoughts on our minds that make us aware of God and His will for us. The next time we are tempted to really tell someone off, or pay someone back for what has been done to us, let us stop and ask the question what would Jesus do in this case. We who are parents talk about discipline in reference to our children and other people^{CHILDREN.} But we should also be looking at ourselves and trying Christian discipline in our lives and then perhaps we will be much better parents because of it. Let us each try this week to show forth some discipline in our lives and maybe we can make a change in our own little corner of this world. God grant that we may be obedient to Him and His will, and that we may discipline ourselves to this will. Let us pray.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 17, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
RICKY VINROE, PATTY BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "O DIVINE REDEEMER" GOUNOD
"THE GARDEN" DEMOREST

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 31 "FATHER, AGAIN IN JESUS' NAME"

*SCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "IN THY GREAT MERCY HEAR US,
OUR FATHER, AS WE CONFESS OUR MANY SINS AGAINST THEE
AND OUR BRETHREN. FOR ALL ANGER AND SELF-WILL; FOR
ALL USE OF OUR STRENGTH TO BEAT DOWN THOSE WHO ARE
WEAKER; FOR EVERY UNHOLY DESIRE AND IMPURE THOUGHT; FOR
THE LOVE OF MONEY WHICH IS THE ROOT OF EVIL; FOR
HATREDS AND PREJUDICES WHICH INJURE OTHERS AND CORRUPT
OUR OWN SOULS; FOR LITTLE SACRIFICES ON BEHALF OF GREAT
CAUSES; FOR PLACING DEPENDENCE IN OURSELVES RATHER THAN
IN THEE, FORGIVE US, O LORD "THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR
SAVIOR. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 13

HYMN No. 160 "IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "A LENTEN MEDITATION" OVERHOLT
ANTHEM: "TIS MIDNIGHT" GOULD - ROLAND THOMPSON -

SAXOPHONE
SERMON: "A HILL"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 286 "WHO IS ON THE LORD'S
SIDE?"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO IN E FLAT" MOORHEAD

*CONGREGATION STANDING

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
MRS. CHARLOTTE CHRISTY IN MEMORY OF HER "HUSBAND".
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *PAUL RIEMER, DARYL
TAIT, JOHN DREHER, GARY FENAR, DON KINGSLEY.
ELDER AND MRS. CHESTER STAUFFER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL
AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. MARGARET
COVERT AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON, RICHARD NICHOLAS,
MRS. JANE WATTERSON, MRS. DORIS ZAVACKY - *HOME TODAY*
PAUL RIEMER - *PROBABLE* *THANKS FOR* *TELLS*

TONIGHT - 6:30 - YOUTH CHOIR

TONIGHT - 7:30 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - PLEASE BRING
SCISSORS.

MONDAY - 7:30 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS. - *Silent Auction*

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - LENTEN SERVICE "HIS OBEDIENCE"

WEDNESDAY - 8:30 - GOLDEN CIRCLE - REV. LINK WILL

LEAD THE BIBLE STUDY AT THIS MEETING.

THURS. - 10:30 A.M. - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE MEETING.

THURS. - 7:30 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY - THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEED VOLUNTEERS

TO HELP RE-DO THE SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT AT 110

WALKER AVE. CALL BOB KNAUER OR DON KENNEDY - WE

NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET - 6:30 P.M. TUESDAY.

GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST - 6:00 A.M. - YMCA - TICKETS

MAY BE OBTAINED FROM J. W. HARMON OR KENNETH

WEITZEL.

THE EASTER LILY CHART WILL BE PASSED TODAY IN THE

CONGREGATION. IT ONLY WENT DOWN ONE SIDE LAST

SUNDAY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A LILY AND DO

NOT GET A CHANCE TO SIGN UP - CALL BEA TAIT.

ATTEND. 244 AM. P.M. 2454

VISITORS - WELCOME

"I saw in the night visions, and behold with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the ancient of days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

Here we see a prophecy pertaining to the 2nd coming of Js.

Here on hill Js imparting news of coming again
Js been hailed as king
Js gone to temp & asserted authority,
All this has raised quests. in minds of disciples
They quest. how safe & secure they are

Here this calm, serene, peaceful indiv suddenly turned on & acting unlike self.
& now he predicting future events.

Js talking specific time in history when he appear again

We can speculate all want,
We can theorize, or intellectualize all we choose,
but fact remains, much written has come to pass
I believe we in latter days & need get rite with God

If bridegroom comes & we not ready, we left out

(Show pics Ala 71, Jerusalem 72)
both show Js in clouds

Some laughed, said trick photography,
Still others ridicule, scoff, sneer.

Others see hand of God in our evil, materialistic, selfish age.
More I think of it, the more I convinced God speaking
God giving us a chance to change

In 72 we suffered horrible flood. in Hurri. Agnes
Some looked upon as another natural disaster.
Some scoffed, sneered, said have had others like it
Look at 36 they say.

But I think God speaking in these ways to tell us to change

Woman took picture of clouds during flood,
((Show pic of Js in clouds)

Is all this coincidence?

Is all trickery to sell bibles, kneelers, prayer book
I don't think so, I think God speaking.

"Tragedy To Triumph!" Act III. A Hill

Text Mark 13:26,

"And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Watch therefore for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning -- lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch."

Act I witnessed triumphal entry, this act of acclamation
Act II cleansing of Temp., this act of demonstration
Today Act III, Js leave Temp & going Mt. Olives,
A Hill.

While on Mt. Js speaks prophetically

Read & hear 1st time, concise, vivid language
things come to pass.

1st answers praise for beauty Temp by telling only
matter time Temp utterly destroyed.

Actually took place about 40 yrs after Js, 70 A.D.

Curiosity of Disc. aroused & when reach Mt Ol. they question him.

Especially Pete, Jim, John disturbed,

Ask, "What is going to take place, & when will this be
they want to know

Js. tells, men will come say Christ or Messiah

In Acts 8:9 ~~xxx~~ Simon acclaimed by tricks magic,
"The power of God that is called great."

(right now man named Moon from Korea, acclaimed Xp.

Js makes pred about wars, natural disasters
some said no real purpose for predictions or meanings
others say ignore them since Temp destroyed & almost
2 millenia past & still no end

Js tells some other things of the signs of the end
but in vs ~~24~~ 24 and 25 he says, (READ THIS)

In Isaiah ironically 13:10 we read,

"For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising and the moon will not shed its light."

Js goes on in vs 26 & 27 (READ THIS)

We also read in Daniel 7:13 & 14,

If look what Js said, then look recent happens, 3/
see startling parallels
1st Js say, "The sun will be darkened & the moon will
not give its light."

When flood taking place, no see moon or sun right?
Was cloudy for several weeks, was it not?

Then Js say, "And then they will see the Son of man
coming in clouds with great power and glory."

If look at pics, we see definite form him in clouds.
To me saying prophecies coming true.

You may choose think hoax, trick photo, or something
else

But be well assured that if we choose neglect signs
as gimmicks or tricks,
& laugh off as one big joke, we may laugh selves out
of eternity.

Jerus may be long way off & we can say, "Well, that
was sign for those people."

Ala is also long way off & we can say, "Well, this
a message for those bigotted peop."

But when same thing in back yard, cannot say applies
to others & not us.

Js was telling followers,

"~~look~~ fellows, you know I have been telling you
what is going to happen in the near future. But
what I want to share with you now, is what is going to
happen in the far distant future.

"Watch therefore -- for you ~~know~~ do not know when
the master of the house will come, in the evening,
or midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning -
-- lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.
And what I say to you I say to all: Watch!"

"Tragedy To Triumph!"

Act III The Mount Of Olives

Text: Mark 13:26, "And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory." "Watch therefore- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning-lest he come suddenly and

In Act I we witnessed the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and this was an act that was full of acclamation. In Act II we witnessed the cleansing of the temple by Jesus and this was an act of demonstration. Today we are looking at Act III in the Lenten drama and we find Jesus and His disciples leaving the temple and going to the Mount of Olives. It is while on this mount that He speaks to his followers in a very strange and unique way. *HE SPEAKS PROPHETICALLY.*

We read and hear for perhaps the first time in very concise and vivid language of the things that will come to pass. First He answers their praise for the beauty of the temple by telling them that it will only be a matter of time and ~~the~~ ^{THE} temple will be utterly destroyed. This prediction arouses the curiosity of the disciples and so when they have reached the Mount of Olives, they naturally question Him about ~~this~~ ^{IT}. Peter and James and John and Andrew are especially disturbed by this prophecy and so they ask Him ~~about it~~ ^{WHY HE MEANT.} "What is going to take place and when will this be, they want to know?"

He tells them that men would come and say that they are the Christ and the Messiah. We read in Acts 8:9 of a man named Simon who performed tricks of magic and how he was acclaimed as being, "The power of God that is called great." But there were others who came along from time to time and each was accepted ~~as~~ by some as the promised one of Israel.

But Jesus makes other predictions about wars, and natural disasters and such. There are those who have said that there is no real purpose and meaning to these predictions. There are those who feel that we should ignore them since the temple has been destroyed and yet ~~several~~ almost two ~~millennia~~ millenia have passed and still the end has not appeared.

find you asleep, and what I say to you I say to all: Watch."

At some time in the near future I intend to deal with the predictions of the end of the world and so I ~~do not intend to~~ ^{will not} delve into it in its entirety this morning. But what I would particularly call your attention to is the prediction of Jesus that He will come in the clouds and this will be a sign of the end. This is found in verse 26 of this 13th chapter of Mark.

In verse 25 Jesus uses some very picturesque language when He tells them that, "After that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken."

If we look at Isaiah, ^{also} ironically, the 13th chapter, and the 10th verse we read, "For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising and the moon will not ~~give~~ shed its light." And in Isaiah 34:4 we read, "All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies shall roll up like a scroll. And all their host shall fall, as leaves from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree." Now whether Jesus was requesting these predictions is unknown. ^{it is} ~~It is~~ Perhaps true that He was, ^{AT THE END OF THIS} ~~for it occurred in an~~ ~~13th~~ chapter of Mark we see where He mentions the fig tree losing its leaves.

But there is one other prophecy taken from Daniel that perhaps was being paraphrased by Jesus. It is from the ~~6th~~ 7th chapter and the 13th and 14th verses. Daniel says, "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

Now whether Jesus was merely repeating in another way these ancient prophecies is immaterial. What is really important is what He is saying. Here on this Mount where He is permitted to have this brief

bit of privacy with his faithful followers, He is imparting some knowledge and some consolation. He is explaining to them that He will be leaving them, but that at a future time He will re-appear on this earth. He has ridden through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey and ~~was~~ ^{HAS BEEN} hailed and acclaimed as a King. Then He went to the temple and asserted an authority that probably raised some questions in the minds of these men. They were perhaps beginning to question how secure and safe they were at this point. Here was this calm serene, peaceful individual suddenly turned on and acting so unlike himself. And now He is predicting future events that are hard to comprehend, let alone imagine.

In this story as in all the others of the Bible we must realize that Jesus was using language and imagery that was familiar to the people to whom He was talking. These men were acquainted with the descriptive and poetic language that told of the moon turning to blood and the sun not shining and the stars falling. If Jesus were walking the earth today and would tell of a prediction such as this, He would very likely couch it in language of our day that we could understand. He would probably talk of a total eclipse of the sun taking place, or of a comet trailing through the heavens, or a large meteor falling from the sky. Or perhaps He would talk of seeing a large mushroom cloud such as is caused by an atomic blast.

But whatever the language, and however it is told, I for one believe that He was talking of a specific time in history when He would appear among us. We can speculate all we want, we can intellectualize all we choose, but the fact remains that very, very much of what was predicted has come to pass. I believe we are living in the latter days and I believe that we all need to get ready to meet our God. I say this not to scare anyone, but that we ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ better look to our lives and know that sometime soon the bridegroom is going to come, and if we are not ready, we are going to be left out of the kingdom.

CALLER THE JESUS PAPER

* IT IS VERY
considered fundamental by many. Inside of the paper was printed two pictures. One was taken in Alabama in 1971 and one was taken in Jerusalem early in 1972. Both pictures show clouds in the sky, but outlined in the clouds is the form and likeness of Jesus Christ as we know Him from paintings that we have all seen.

(Show pictures).

This past year we can all remember very vividly the flood that we had in this central area of the state. Some people looked upon it as only another natural disaster. Other people have looked upon it as the hand of God in our evil, materialistic, selfish age. Those who disagree with this theory have laughed and ridiculed this idea. They have pointed to the fact that we have had all kinds of natural disasters in past years. "Why look at the dreadful floods of 1936," everyone says.

I have pondered ~~this~~ the events of this past year, and I must say I have mixed emotions. But the more I think about it, the more I am convinced that God is speaking to us through nature and He is giving us a chance to turn from our evil ways and to be a part of His kingdom. Just a week or so ago I was given a picture that was taken during the flood and it was taken here in Pennsylvania. The picture again is of a formation of clouds, but again, seen in the clouds is the likeness that you and I would say was Jesus Christ.

(Show picture).

Is this all coincidence? Is this all some trickery that has been dreamed up by someone to sell bibles, and kneeling pads, and prayer books? I don't think so, my friends. I believe it is God telling us to shape up or else.

If we look at what Jesus said, and we look at some recent events we can see some startling parallels. First Jesus says, "The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light." When the flood

was taking place, we could not see the sun or the moon, ~~clouds~~ could we?
It was cloudy for a goodly portion of several weeks, ~~wasn't it?~~ ^{not?} Then Jesus says, "And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory." If we look at each of the pictures I have here, we can definitely see the form of Him in the clouds. To me this is saying that the prophecies are coming true. You may choose to think it is a hoax or trick photography or something else. And this is your privilege. But be well assured that if we choose to neglect these signs as gimmicks or tricks, and laugh it off as one large joke, we may laugh ourselves out of eternity.

Jesus was telling his followers, "Look fellows, you know I have been telling you what is going to happen to me ~~in~~ the near future. But what I want to share with you now is what is going to happen in the far distant future." "Watch therefore - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning - lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch."

JERUSALEM MAY BE A LONG WAY OFF & SO WE CAN SAY, "WELL, THAT WAS A SIGN FOR THOSE PEOPLE." ALABAMA IS ALSO QUITE A PIECE FROM HERE, & AGAIN WE COULD SAY THAT THIS WAS A MESSAGE FOR THOSE BIGOTTED, PREJUDICED SOUTHERNERS. BUT WHEN WE HAVE THE SAME THING TAKING PLACE ^{RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD} WE CAN'T VERY WELL SAY THAT IT APPLIES TO OTHERS & NOT US.

"His Courage!"

Text: Psalm 27:1,
The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall
I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of
whom shall I be afraid?"

Speak qualities Js, come know he possess far more
could cover.
Have been dealing more prominent ones, look tonite
His Courage.

More I read about Js in Gos, mor I convinced he
avid student bible.

That's bible that day, Torah-law - books Moses,
Psalms, few others

Doing research this serm, backtracked cross refs
scripture.

I referred me back Ps 118:22,
"The stone which the builders refused is become th
the head of the corner."

This vs is & was statent Js about self,
found Mt 21:42, Mk 12:10, Lk 20:17

If Js knew scrips so well, & was fulfillment of it,
then it stands reason we read into much scrip,
Js either spoken of, or He could do speaking of
that certain portion of it.

Case in point scrip for tonite
I visualize Js speaking this Ps
Good example His Courage.

Let us look closely;

vs 1, Lord sufficient all needs. He inspiration
all thots, ideas that come me. He redeem
at end of life. He will save me.

xxx2x No need fear anyone, God with me. Father
watching. God strength of all life. In
everything he there. What person indiv must
I fear? God always there with me.

vs3x 2, when those who would destroy me, came up
against me God worked things out. (Jesus)
in synagogue) They could not touch him.
They ones defeated.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICE MARCH 27, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
RICKY VINROE, PATTY BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.

PRELUDE: "EVENING PRELUDE" CLARKE

SILENT MEDITATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 467 "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY"

*INVOCATION - CHORAL AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PSALM 27

*GLORIA PATRI

*EVENING PRAYERS AND CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY "PRAYER" HOPKINS

HYMN No. 481 "DAY IS DYING IN THE WEST"

SERMON: "HIS COURAGE"

SERMON PRAYER

*HYMN No. 472 "WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL" SCOTT

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

MR. PAUL RIEMER WENT INTO NORTH HILLS PASSAVANT

HOSPITAL SUNDAY AFTERNOON. ROOM 628 - HOME

IL 3 - TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE - FROM 1 TO 3
O'CLOCK. THIS IS THE ONLY TIME IT COULD BE SET UP. JANE

SUNDAY NEGLECTED TELL MRL BUTLER MRS. WATKINSON

WELCOME VISITORS

NEXT WED. CH. AT 7:00 P.M.

WORK NITE THURS.

MRS. FILSHIN
MRS. EMMA
HEGENDUTHAM

thing did, being watched reported.
Knew would probably be exec at feast
How else borne torment if not rooted, grounded
God?

This courage u & I should emulate if Xpian
When tack name Xpian after name, leave open on-
taughts world.

Takes courage endure tauntes, smears world has
offer those stand against crowd.

Confirm class boy say, more courage say no etc

Takes courage remain Xpian when those not flourish
do well, business private lives.

Sometimes wonder as Job if worth it.

(Illustration 13 yr girl)

stay 1st nite alone grandma hospital,
Said, "I screamed, I hollered, I cried. But here
I am, I made it thru 1st nite, now able make it
till come home, 2

This kind courage all need,
be able scream, holler, cry if necessary withstand
wiles devil, evils world

Were we adopt words Psalmist,

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall
I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall
I be afraid?"

perhaps would all come conclusion God with us all
ings,

with this assurance of presence God in lives,
we each have courage live life fullest, & to
enjoy life, secure in the Lord.

3/
vs 3, When came as mob, I able overcome thru 2,
Gpd. Even onslaughts enemies may seem like
war, God still with me

4, Sought pattern life proper way. Life lived
mid glories, beauty, Fathers house. Always
sought school self in His word.

vs 5, Whenever trouble arise, God will shelter with
wings. He keep from my enemies. Shall pro-
vide wall off stone, as it were to shield on-
slaughts

vs 6, When take out execute, will be lifte up over
them, (hint way he die?) Even this can
sing mercy of God. Will lift up voice even
at hour of suffer, give thanks, (ex, sing hymn
last sup)

vs 7, When I suffer, please God hear me, answer me
in my hour need, have mercy pon me

vs 8, Have sot u all of life. Have looked for
countenance in all of life, every circumstance

vs 9, Don't turn away from me God. Face me even
at my most crucial hour. Let me know you
still looking after me. Forsake me not even
darkest hour. (Js quote Ps 22, My God, My
God etc)

vs 10, Even when nearest dearest desert, u still
there O God. (Ex, mother, bros, sis think
mad, come take away)

vs 11, Show me what do, surrounded enemies, they
out get me. Show me where walk, what do

vs 12, Do not turn me over barbarians, they tell
lies, they sadistic, cruel in way put per-
son death. Js ask remove cup.

vs 13, Could not borne strain, had not seen your
hand my ministry

vs 14, Be patient trust God even as I. Keep strong
be courageous in all do. He strengthen life
give what need. Be patient let God work out
purpose your life.

In all this see Js courage, faces momentous task
set before him

vs must always be examp for our lives
think amt courage muster to live last week life
knew full well each action, each word, each

"His Courage!"

Text: Psalm 27:1,

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid."

When we speak of the qualities of Jesus, we come to know that he possessed far more qualities than we could ever cover. We have been dealing with the more prominent ones, and the quality we shall look at tonight is the quality of courage. "His Courage!"

The more I read about Jesus in the Gospels, the more I am convinced that he was an avid student of the Bible. By the Bible I mean, the Scripture that was available at that time. The Torah, or the law of Moses, the Psalms, and several others.

My reason for stating this is that in doing some research for this message, I backtracked to some cross references of Scripture. One of these referred me to the 118 Psalm, and in particular the 22nd verse.

This verse reads:

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head of the corner."

Now in case you do not recognize this verse it is and was a statement that Jesus made about himself in Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, & Luke 20:17. If Jesus then knew scripture so well, and was indeed the fulfillment of a very large portion of it, then it stands to reason that we read into much of scripture, that Jesus is either being spoken of, or He could do the speaking of that certain portion.

A good case in point is our scripture for tonight. I can visualize Jesus uttering this Psalm and also use it as a good example of His Courage. Let us look at it rather closely. The 27th Psalm.

The Psalm begins by stating, (Read Psalm verse by verse, sentence by sentence, and explain.)

vs. 1, Lord is sufficient for all needs, He is the inspiration the thoughts and the ideas that come to me. He will redeem me at the end of life, He will save me.

vs. 1 cont.,

I do not need to fear anyone because God is with me, My Father is watching.
God is my strength in all of my life. In everything He is there. ^{what person or} ~~xxxxxx~~
what individual must I fear?
I need to fear? God is always there with me.

vs. 2,

when those who would have destroyed me came up against me, My Father worked things out. Jesus in the Synagogue. They could not touch me. They were the ones who were defeated.

vs. ~~3~~ 3,

Even when they come at me as a mob, I will be able to overcome them through God. Even when the onslaughts of my enemies seem like a war is raging against me, even in this God is with me.

vs. 4,

I have sought to patternn my life in the propervway. My life has been lived amid the glories and the beauty of the Father's House. I have always sought to school myself in His word.

vs.5,

Whenever trouble arises God will shelter me with his wings, He shall keep me from my enemies. He shall provide a wall, a wall ~~xx~~ of stone as it were to shield me from their onslaughts.

vs. 6,

When they take me out to execute me, I shall be lifted up over them, but even in this can I ~~xxxx~~ sing of the mercy of God. I will lift up me voice in thanks even at the hour of my suffering.

vs. 7,

When I suffer God, please hear me, answer me in my hour of need, have mercy upon me.

vs. 8,

I have sought to find you in all of life. I have looked for your countenance in every circumstance of life

vs. 9,

vs. 9,

Don't turn away from me God. Face me even at my most crucial moments.

Let me know that you still are looking after me.

Forsake me not, even in my darkest hours. Jesus quoted from Psalm 22, when on cross he said, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

vs. 10,

Even when my closest and nearest and dearest desert me, you will still be there O God. An example is when mother, brothers, sisters came to take him away, because they thought he was crazy.

vs. 11,

Show me what to do because I am surrounded by my enemies, and they are out to get me. So show me where to walk and what to do.

vs. 12,

Do not turn me over to these barbarians, because they are telling lies about me and they are sadistic and cruel in the way they put a person to death.

Let this Jesus would be asking if God would remove this cup from Him.

vs. 13,

I could not have borne up under all of the strain of doing your will, if I had not seen the evidence of your Hand in my ministry.

vs. 14,

Be patient and trust in God even as I have done. Keep strong and be courageous in all you do. He will strengthen your life, and give you what you need. Be patient and give God time to work out His purpose in your life.

Now in all of this we can see the courage of Jesus as He faces up to the momentous task that is set before him. Jesus Christ must always be our example in all of life. Think of the amount of courage he had to muster in his life to live through that last week of his life, knowing full well that each action of his, each word that he spoke, each thing he did was being watched and reported, so that he would be executed at the Feast of the Passover. How else could he have borne this torment if his life was not rooted and grounded in His Father?

This is the courage that you and I ~~shall~~ shall try to emulate if we ~~a~~ are truly Christian. When we tack that name Christian after our names, we leave ourselves open to the onslaughts of the world. It takes courage to endure the taunts and the smears that the world has to offer to those who dare to stand against the crowd.

It takes courage to remain a Christian when we see those who are not flourishing and doing well in business and in their private lives. Sometimes we are forced to wonder as Job did, if it is worth it.

(Illustration of girl living with grandmother in 10 room house all by herself, while grandma is in the hospital).

She said, "I screamed, I hollered, I cried. But here I am, I made it through that 1st night and now I know I'll be able to do it until you get home."

This is the kind of courage we all need. To be able to scream and holler and cry if necessary in order to withstand the wiles of the devil, and the evils of this world.

But were we to adopt into each of our lives, the words of the Psalmist, ~~"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"~~

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?", perhaps we would each come to the conclusion that God is with us in all things, and with this assurance of the presence of God in our lives, we will each have the courage to live life to its fullest, and to enjoy this life, secure in the Lord.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 24, 1974
 REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
 MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
 MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
 RICKY VINROE, PATTY BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
 PRELUDE MUSIC: "THE HOLY CITY" ADAMS
 "IN JOSEPH'S GARDEN" RABLY

SILENT PRAYER
 *PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 184 "ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME"
 *SCRIPTURE - CHORAL AMEN
 *EXHORTATION
 *CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "HAVE MERCY UPON US, O GOD, ACCORD-
 ING TO THY LOVING-KINDNESS; ACCORDING TO THE MULTITUDE
 OF THY TENDER MERCIES BLOT OUT OUR TRANSGRESSIONS. WASH
 US THOROUGHLY FROM OUR INIQUITIES, AND CLEANSE US FROM
 OUR SINS. FOR WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, AND
 OUR SIN IS EVER BEFORE US. PURGE US AND WE SHALL BE
 CLEAN; WASH US AND WE SHALL BE WHITER THAN SNOW. CREATE
 IN US CLEAN HEARTS, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN
 US. CAST US NOT AWAY FROM THY PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT THY
 HOLY SPIRIT FROM US. AMEN."
 *KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)
 *ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN
 *PRAISE
 *PASTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.
 *PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.
 *DOXOLOGY No. 551
 SCRIPTURE LESSON: LUKE 22: 7-30
 HYMN No. 239 "ASK YE WHAT GREAT THING I KNOW"
 *AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)
 *GLORIA PATRI
 *CALL TO PRAYER
 *PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.
 *PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.
 *PASTOR: LET US PRAY.
 *PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE
 OFFERING

OFFERTORY "PANIS ANGELICUS" FRANCK
 ANTHEM: "NOT A WORD" ROSEMARY HADLER - JR. CHOIR
 SERMON: "DINING OUT"
 PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER
 *HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 287 "GOD OF GRACE AND GOD
 OF GLORY"
 *BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN
 ORGAN POSTLUDE: "SARABANDE" BACH
 *CONGREGATION STANDING - - - - -
 THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
 DONN E. MILLER IN MEMORY OF HIS "MOTHER" DOROTHY K.
 MILLER'S BIRTHDAY.
 SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *RAYMOND COVERT, ROBBIE
 VINROE, ROBERT DELLEN, BRIAN PFABE, STEVE SMITH.
 ELDER AND MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL
 AT THE DOOR TODAY.
 NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. LINDA McMILLIN,
 MRS. JANE ARMSTRONG AND ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG.
 HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON, MRS. MAE DUTTER,

> TUESDAY - 6:30 - A WORK NIGHT IS PLANNED FOR THE
 SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT AT 110 WALKER AVE. MEN AND
 WOMEN ARE NEEDED TO HELP RE-DO THE APARTMENT.
 > WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - LENTEN SERVICE - "HIS COURAGE"
 > GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN - YWCA - APR. 12 AT
 7:30 A.M. - TICKETS ARE \$2.00 - RESERVATIONS MAY BE
 MADE BY CALLING THE YWCA ANYTIME, BUT TICKETS HAVE
 TO BE PICKED UP AND PAID FOR BY APRIL 10.
 > GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST FOR MEN - 6:00 A.M. - YMCA -
 TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM J. W. HARMON OR KENNETH
 WEITZEL.
 EASTER LILIES CAN STILL BE ORDERED - CALL BEA TAIT.
 TUESDAY - 10:00 A.M. - BOARD MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S
 FELLOWSHIP IN THE UNDERCROFT.
 THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ARE IN NEED OF 1 LB. COFFEE
 CANS - YOU MAY LEAVE THEM IN THE KITCHEN.
 THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 243.
 MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON WILL BE PLAYING THE PIANO
 ALONG WITH THE ORGAN TODAY.
 - - - - -
 GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I
 CANNOT CHANGE, COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN,
 AND WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

VISITORS - WELCOME
 ONE GREAT HOUR SHARED TODAY
 PRAYER WILL PAUSED AROUND NEXT SUN.

Js asks them, "For which is ^{the} greater, one who sits^{3/} at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table?"

Q'er words one sits table considered greatest, cause others minister to him, & serve meal.

But Js. say, "I am among you as one who serves." H. saying, "Here I at head table, yet not neath my dig to serve u, or wait upon your tables."

"You those continued my trials; as Father appointed kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that u may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

Telling since had ~~Jesus~~ served on earth, so will have fellowship with him in kingdom.

When look at passage teaching lesson, not merely story, we see much can learn

1st learn we to be servants ~~stead~~ those waited on But isn't contrary rules society today? Isn't part code, move up ladder lowest rung, then next so on.

Supposed start as office boy, end up pres of corp. What happen if expect pres stamp mail, lick envel? Goes against all standards & rules does it not?

But this Js saying look at church standpoint, fellow start ordinary preacher, move up pres, Assoc, Conf pres, pres church Or fellow start SS teach, then deac, then eld, then ruling eld & hold mostbrevered respected person cong, looked up to sought out advice

By too often, that pres, church, ruling elder, thus preach, can lose site fact to serve is to do so even in capacity of pushing broom.

Js not say once gain status, prestige, age, whatever have it made, everyone else works. Wasn't saying once served certain length time in Kingdom sit back let George do it.

He say, once servant always servant. He say, no job church should be considered neath dignity

He say, "Look, I show you by my life, my example. If you seek serve me, means whole commitment of your life. It means commitment of all u have. It means commitment to do the necessary thing whether it be sweeping floors, teaching class, being sought after because you have some wisdom. But it means serving

When all arrange taken place, Js arrive scene 2/ room met in commonly room bilt top house private stairway, room often used Rabbi, students, or intimate followers

Js merely follow custom Rabbi, householder merely loan room another teacher.

We lead, "And they prepared the Passover."

This prep consist not only sac lamb, getting killed temp, roasting over pomegranate fire on spit, but also other ingred.

Unleaveneds bread- remind them bred eaten haste when escape Egypt

Bowl salt water - remind tears had shed Egypt, also water Red Sea passed thru

Bitter herbs- horse radish, chicory, endive, lettuce horehound - remind bitterness slavery Egypt

Paste called CHAROSHETH - mixture apples, dates, pomegranates, nuts - remind clay made bricks, thru it sticks cinnamon remind of straw bricks made

4 cups wine during meal - remind 4 promise Ex 6:6-7 I will bring you out from the burdens of the Egypt

I will rid you of their bondage

I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.

I will take you for a people and I will be your God

Thus all preps made Js now dine out with his men Much said, written bout meal, little of fellowship

All familiar paint Last Sup Leonardo De Vinci shows 12 gathered round table Js

Altho pain beautiful, prob misleading

We think all meals as we eat,

we use table chairs

days Js lounged cushions placed floor, round low table which food placed.

Perhpas seen movies showing Romans eating thus, this true pic

10th chap Mark read James John come Js ask permit sit on rt & left Js in kingdom.

Real signif peop seated meal cording rank

Most import in center

next import his rt

next import left, next import rt again etc

Rt signif since ate rt, talked mostly to rt

Also read in Lk dispute who greatest at Last Sup

(wise counsel as always, informed they not look greatest, but realize they all servants & greatest is actually hecwho serves.

me, & forgetting all of the personal things that 4/
motivate you to seek your own stature & your own
power & glory."

But Js also promised reward.

We realize receive pay for work,

"as compensated for what we do

(are payment for being servant,

"If you do this for me, then you may eat and drink
at my table in my kingdom."

It is the privilege to share fellowship with Js in
His kingdom.

As always, a payment that is deserved.

Js said, sow sparingly, reap sparingly,

Serve sparingly ~~you~~ goinf eat drink sparingly my K

Upper Room served as place eat Pass,

As locale ~~for~~ institution last sup

Also as another classroom for instruct. faithful

Js taught by word here, but also by example

Next day he showed by giving life as servant of man
kind.

Old hymn tells us, "I will cling to the old rugged
cross and exchange it someday for a crown."

The life of service always means a cross.

It means the giving up of self,

It means losing our identity in Christ in order
partake his kingdom.

Dining out with our Lord, means not only sitting at
table, but serving table as well.

Those who have served him, will reign with him.

Those who have shared in the bearing of Christ's
cross, will someday share in the wearing of His
Crown.

"Tragedy To Triumph"
Act IV The Upper Room

Text: ~~MARK~~ Luke 22: 27-30a, "For which is greater, one who sits at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

"When do we eat?", is a popular phrase around the Link house and I am sure it has a familiar ring to most of us here. It was also a well known saying among the disciples of Jesus. We read of the feeding of the 5000 and the feeding of the 4000 and how the disciples were not only concerned with how the crowds would be fed, but they were concerned ~~about~~ about their own personal hunger.

~~But~~ ^{ALSO} in Act IV The Upper Room is not only a meal with the disciples, but ~~was~~ a chance for fellowship. Perhaps the disciples looked forward enviously to the times when they could sit and eat privately with Jesus. This would be a pleasure to be guarded zealously since He was almost continuously surrounded by crowds of people seeking His help. We can ~~draw these conclusions~~ almost definitely draw these conclusions ~~because~~ because we read of several instances where the disciples tried to discourage some people who sought Jesus' aid.

On this occasion preceeding the Feast of the Passover, they came to Him and they asked, "Where will we prepare this meal with you?" Surprisingly Jesus answers that they are to go to Jerusalem, and look for a man carrying a water jar on his head. And when they spotted him they were to follow him. ~~At first thought this sounds like~~ At first thought this sounds like a rather absurd direction to be giving someone. "Look for a man carrying a water jar. But this was a rather unique thing, for in those days of pre-women's lib, the women did all of the water jar carrying. So it was a rare sight indeed to see a man carrying a jar of water around on his head. So then we realize that this was a simple task to go into town and to look

for a man carrying a jar of water, and then to follow him ~~where~~ to his destination.

"The teacher says to you Then they were to say to the householder, [^]"Where is the guest room, ~~where~~ where I am to eat the Passover with my disciples?" We see in this what amounts to a ~~not~~ pre-arranged plan. Many people were friends of Jesus, but they were secret friends because of the danger that was involved with being a known friend of this revolutionary individual. So rather than risk the consequences of conflicts with the authorities, they merely remained unknown in the background and helped and supported him quietly and very unobtrusively. Such was the case with this man who owned this house. The pre-arrangement was that this man would send his man servant to fetch ~~water~~ water on this given day, and Jesus' disciples were to look for him, probably in a certain part of the city. And ~~not~~ ^{tell} when they followed him and came to his master's house, they were to ~~ask~~ the master, "The teacher wants to know, where the guest room is for this Passover?" This was the password that identified them as being sent by Jesus.

When all of this had taken place they made the necessary arrangements for the meal and then Jesus arrived on the scene with the rest of the disciples. The room they met in was what was commonly a room built on top of the house. It had a private stairway going up to it, and these rooms were very often used by a Rabbi and his students, or his very intimate band of followers. So Jesus was merely following the custom of many Rabbi's and the householder was ~~not really risking~~ merely loaning the room out to another Teacher.

And we read, "And they prepared the Passover." This preparation consisted of not only getting the sacrificial lamb, killing it in the temple and roasting it on a spit over a pomegranate fire, but also included other necessary ingredients. There was ~~also~~ unleavened bread which was to remind them of the bread they had eaten in haste when they had escaped from Egypt.

There was a bowl of salt water, to remind them of the tears

they had shed in Egypt, and also of the waters of the Red Sea through which they had passed to safety. There was a collection of bitter herbs of horse radish, chicory, endive, lettuce and horehound to remind them of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt. There was a paste called CHAROSHETH which was a mixture of apples, dates, pomegranates and nuts which reminded them of the clay of which they made bricks, and through it there were sticks of cinamon to remind them of the straw with which the bricks had been made. And then there were four cups of wine during the meal. These cups were to remind them of the four promises in Exodus 6:6-7,

"I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
I will rid you of their bondage.
I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.
I will take you for a people and I will be your God."

Thus were all the preparations made and Jesus could now dine with his men. Much has been said about the meal and the significance of it but little has been said about its fellowship. We all are familiar I am sure with the beautiful painting of the Last Supper, as depicted by Leonardo de Vinci. The painting shows the twelve gathered around the table with Jesus. Although this painting is very beautiful and gives us a good picture of what it might have been, it is probably very misleading. We think of all meals as being eaten as we partake of them. We use a table and chairs to sit at a meal. But in the days of Jesus, they did not sit at a table such as we do. They lounged on cushions placed on the floor around a low table upon which the food was placed.

If you have seen movies showing the Roman emperors eating in such a manner, this is the way the people ~~of~~ in that part of the world ate. In the 10th chapter of Mark we read the account of James and John coming to Jesus and requesting that they be permitted to sit on the right and on the left of Jesus in his kingdom. Now this has some real significance since when people were seated at a ^{MEAL} ~~banquet~~, it was according to rank, ~~that they were seated~~. The most important person was seated at the very center or head of the table. The next important person was seated on his right, since

while the meal progressed he spoke mostly to that person. The next important person was on the left, and the ranking went on down the line. This is why we read in ~~the~~ Luke's account of the Last Supper, that a dispute arose among ^{THEM} which of them was to be the greatest.

And Jesus with the very wise counsel that He always gave, informed them that rather than looking to who should be the greatest, they should realize that they are all servants, and the greatest is actually he who serves. He asked them, "For which is greater, one who sits at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table?" In other words the person who sits at table is considered the greatest, because others come and minister to him and serve him his meal. ~~But~~ Jesus went on to say, "But I am among you as one who serves." He is saying ~~that~~ "Here I am at the head of this table, and yet it is not beneath my dignity to serve you or to wait upon your needs."

"You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom." He is telling them that since they have served Him here on earth, so will they be able to have fellowship with Him in His kingdom.

When we look at this passage in the light that it is teaching a lesson instead of merely telling the story of the Last Supper, we can see ~~that~~ there is much we can learn.

We can learn first that we are to be servants instead of ~~the~~ those who are waited upon. But isn't this contrary to the rules and the standards that we have set in society? Isn't it a part of the code that we move up the ladder ~~xxx~~ from the ~~xxx~~ very lowest to the next rung and then the next and so on. We are supposed to start out as the office boy and end up as the president of the corporation. But what happens if we expect the president of the corporation to stamp the mail, or lick the envelopes ~~and~~? It goes against all rules and standards doesn't it? But this is what Jesus ^{is}

saying. If we look at it from the church we see that a fellow is supposed to start out as just an ordinary preacher and move up to the president of the Association and then the Conference president and then the president of the whole church. Or a fellow starts out ~~as~~ ^{As} merely ¹ a Sunday School teacher, and then becomes a deacon, and then an elder and then the ruling elder and holds the position as the ~~very~~ most respected and revered person of the congregation and is looked up to and sought out for advice.

But as is usually the case, that president of the church or that ruling elder, can lose sight of the fact that to serve is to do ~~so~~ even in the capacity of pushing a broom. Jesus wasn't saying that once you have attained age, or status, or prestige or whatever, that you automatically have it made and everyone else works. He wasn't saying that once you have served a certain length of time in the kingdom that you can sit back and let George do it. What He was saying was ~~that~~ once a servant always a servant. He was saying that no job ~~should be taken~~ in His church should be considered as being beneath my dignity. He was saying, "Look, I am showing you the way by my life and by my ~~example~~. If you are seeking to serve me, it means a whole commitment of your life. It means a commitment of all you have. It means a commitment to do the necessary thing, whether it be sweeping the floor, or teaching a class, or being sought after because you have attained some wisdom. But it means serving me, and forgetting all of the personal things that motivate you to seek your own stature and your own power and glory."

But along with this service He also promised reward. He said, "If you do this for me, then you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom." Here is the pay for the job. We realize that we receive payment for what we do. We realize that we are compensated for our work. Well, here is the payment for being a servant in all of life. It is the privilege of sharing fellowship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in His kingdom. But it is as always a payment that is deserved.

Jesus said if you ~~sow~~ sow sparingly, you will reap sparingly. If you serve sparingly you are going to eat and drink sparingly in the

kingdom to come. The Upper Room was not merely a place for Jesus to eat the Passover with His disciples, nor was it a place ~~mx~~ that served as the locale for the institution of ~~the Lord's~~ the Sacrament of Communion. But it served as yet another classroom for the instruction of the faithful.

The lessons taught there apply to us today as well as to those first followers of Christ. Jesus was teaching by word, and in a few short days He showed them by example, when He permitted Himself to die on the cross. The old familiar hymn tells us, "I will cling to the old Rugged Cross, and exchange it someday for a Crown." The life of service always means a cross. It means the giving up of self, losing our identity in Christ in order to partake of His kingdom.

Those who have stood by Him through thick and thin will in the end reign with Him. Those who have shared in the bearing of Christ's Cross will some day share in the wearing of His crown.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

RICKY VINROE, PATTY BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

PRELUDE MUSIC: "IN SPRING" DEMOREST
"CHRIST WEEPS OVER JERUSALEM" SERGISSON

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 72 "NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD"

*EXHORTATION

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*PRAISE
*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.
*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 14: 26-42
HYMN NO. 144 "GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE"

*GLORIA PATRI

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

OFFERTORY "THE EASTER PROMISE" WALLACE
ANTHEM: "THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY" BY GOUNOD
CHANCEL CHOIR - SOLO - CYNDIE SYBERT

ANTHEM: "THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY" BY GOUNOD
CHANCEL CHOIR - SOLO - CYNDIE SYBERT

CHANCEL CHOIR - Solo - CYNDIE SYBERT

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

— — — — — *CONGREGATION S.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *ALVIN TAIT, JAMES
McCLYMONDS, MIKE NAZARUK, ALLEN BOTACCHI.

MRS. VICKIE HOLT AND LYNNE BOSKO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY TODAY.

TONIGHT - 6:30 - YOUTH CHOIR.

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING.

WEDNESDAY - 1:00 - LENTEN SERVICE - REMEMBER THIS
BE ONE HALF HOUR EARLY SO THAT COUNCIL CAN MEET

THURSDAY - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE
HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

DO = ANYONE THAT CAN HELP MEN OR WOMEN = WE NEED YOU!

DO - ANYONE THAT CAN HELP MEN OR WOMEN - WE NEED YOU.
REV. AND MRS. GRANKVILLE COOPER WILL CELEBRATE THEIR

REV. AND MRS. GRANVILLE COOPER WILL CELEBRATE THEIR
56TH WEDDING ANN. ON WEDNESDAY - APRIL 3. DROP THEM
A CARD THEY WOULD APPRECIATE IT.

THE YOUTH WILL SPONSOR A BAKE SALE AT THE BUTLER MALL

THE YOUTH WILL SPONSOR A BAKE SALE AT THE BUTLER MALL ON 422 W. NEXT SATURDAY APRIL 6. THEY WILL BE COMPETING WITH OTHER GROUPS AT THE SAME TIME. THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT. YOU MAY EITHER BRING YOUR BAKED GOODS TO THE CHURCH FRIDAY EVENING OR BRING THEM TO THE MALL SATURDAY MORNING AT 9:30.

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 3 - FROM 1-3 TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE WILL BE OFFERED IN THE UNDERCROFT.

THE GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL WILL BE PASSED THIS MORNING. THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00-9:00

MORNING. THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00-9:00
FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN-YWCA 7:30 - CALL YWCA
SAME FOR MEN - YMCA - 6:00 - J.W.HARMON, KEN WEITZEL.

WELCOME VISITORS

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP April 8, 1973

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 475
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture --- Mark 14:26-42
*The Gloria Patri
The Anthem (Trinity)
The Pastoral Prayer
The Choral Response (Trinity)
The Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 144
The Sermon --- "Tragedy To Triumph!"
Act V - Gethsemane

The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 145
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mercersburg Association Meeting will be held on Sunday April 29th in Chambersburg from 2:30 PM to 8:00 PM. The cost for this is \$3.00, this includes the evening meal. Reservations must be turned in by next Sunday. See the Pastor about this.

We will observe the Rite of Confirmation next Sunday in both churches.

Bible Study will be held on Wednesday April 11th at 7:30 PM at the Church of God. Rev. Marsolf will be the leader.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome as new members today, Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Anderson.

Anyone desiring to buy any of the wooden chairs, contact Paul Hepfer or Russell Raub. The price is \$4.00 per chair.

The amount owed on the organ has been reduced to \$436.00.

Thus far this year there has been \$579.00 collected for OCWM on our pledge of \$2,000.00.

The Heidelberg Men's Class will meet on Tuesday April 10th at 7:30 PM.

The Women's Guild will meet Friday April 13th at 7:30 PM in the home of Pearl Lepperd.

There will be a special Tenebrae Service held on Maundy Thursday April 19th at 7:30 PM.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mid-Week Lenten Service will be held at Trinity Methodist Church. Your Pastor will be the speaker.

1 thing did for him, never realized until dead, 2/
 They left him alone
 They permitted Js suffer pangs complete isolation
 & despair of facing it all alone.

We old worst thing anyone endure is lonliness.
 Man aged do this in institutions
 off friends, family, relatives, no one care.
 Viet Nam prisoners stated, "Hardest thing endure."

This what Js endure in "A Garden", Gethsemane.
 Cannot minimize saying among friends,
 because He wasn't,
 He among indifferent, unfeeling, perhaps uncaring
 men,
 Men for whom he done much,
 Men who should cared for him, as he cared them

But even desertion disciples, even dread unknown,
 came God for help.
 Did he find? Was prayer answered?
 According Hebrews 5:7, it was, we read,
 "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers
 and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him
 who was able to save him from death, and he was heard
 for his Godly fear."

Prayer strange indefinable something, lacks discription
 We can talk, try explain,
 but unless person experienced its power in life,
 it still mystery.

In book, "Way Of A Pilgrim," by unknown author, is
 good illustration prayer.
 This book supposedly true acct man's life & lifelong
 search answers to life.
 Takes place Russia around 1860's
 Pilgrim in book never identified, writes as tho
 relating story to friend.

1st chap. goes church hears priest refer Paul state-
 ment I Thessa 5:17, to pray without ceasing.
 Sets him wondering about, begins inquire how do this.
 He unable find anyone answer question.
 begin journey other towns seek answer.
 No one answer until little town told monk
 monastery nearby knows

He goes old monk asks, monk tells, pray, Lord Js Christ
 have mercy on me.
 Js to this, no more, but 3000 times day
 hands place stay, begins pray prayer

"Tragedy To Triumph!"
 Act V. A Garden

Text: Mark 14:34-36

"And he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful,
 even to death; remain here and watch.' And going
 a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed,
 that if it were possible, the hour might pass from
 him. And he said, 'Abba Father, all things are
 possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not
 what I will, but what thou wilt.'"

Act 5 Lenten drama, confronted 1st time
 tenseness, urgency, not present Before
 reason: moving final stages drama
 Js knows facing toughest test
 Worst ordeal of life

Realizes actions provoked authorities
 knows, they not stop at nothing to silence him

Luke's account Gethsemane starts,
 "And he went as was his custom to Mt of Olives."
 Find this statement evidence support claim Js
 prayed often, sought God's help in life.

Only natural Him come garden pray, this greatest
 hour of trial.

Luke also try impress reader, real urgency Js
 praying, by stating sweat fell like large drops blood
 Indicates great anguish, distress,
 both mental, physical burden upon him.

Js stand out clearly in narrative, in greatest
 hour of need, favorite companions deserted him
 Each time go away pray, come back find asleep
 Each time expect share anxiety, apprehension,
 Each time disappointed finds sleeping

Thus see humanity these men,
 they not face ordeal, problem not theirs, so
 perhaps attitude, "Well, let him look out self,
 just like we must do when have problem."

Perhaps felt he resolve problem like all others
 Maybe thought back calming of sea,
 Maybe thought miracles could whip up moments notice
 Thinking may do again if need arose

Whatever thinking, we know they at ease, permitted
 Js privacy he sought, they no disturb him.

Cannot expect God answer if we do not pray. 4/
We must pray, pray, pray, pray ----
and then expect answers,
There those of us here know this to be fact.

Helen Steiner Rice, "Prayers Can't Be Answered
Unless They Are Prayed."

This Jesus did when he came to A Garden, & A Garden
was where he determined God's will to die.
We each have our own garden in which we must
determine what God wants from us.
Have you come to it in earnest fervent prayer?

At 1st, difficult, finally able to do it. 3/
Goes back monk tells him he did it.
Monk tells, go back & pray 6000 times day
He thinks impossible, but tries, & again able to
do it, he does whole week,

Goes back monk, monk again tells, pray 12,000 times
"Remain in your solitude, get up early, go to bed
late, and come see me two weeks."

He does, finds after awhile he no need say prayer,
mouth, mind do automatically.

He find pray without ceasing, but in process, he
has found God.

All of prayers, all of mechanics served worth-
while cause.

This what prayer should do, should put in touch
with God.

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, Presby minister,
"If I say prayer help you to peace and power, to
wisdom and to vision, these very practical consid-
erations are beside the point. There is but one
reason sufficient in itself. Prayer is the way to
know God, to glorify him, to enjoy him forever,
and this it is we hold to be the chief end of man.
For life is not really life at all until it becomes
life in God."

Minister noticed little boy come church many times
in week.

Would sit in pew & bow head.

1 day he asked him about it.

Boy said, "I like to come here for prayer,

It makes me feel bigger than I am."

This what prayer should do, should make feel bigger
than we are, because our lives lived in God.

(Illustration Sweet Hour Of Prayer)

Here is how a blind man viewed prayer.

It is sweet hours of prayer, that bring about
miracles in peoples lives,

It is sweet hours prayer, that change lives,

It was sweet hours prayer that kept our Saviour
on his appointed course.

It will be sweet hours prayer that will change
our lives, our congregation, all of us.

Each instance we talk about this morning, 1 thing
heaven, Each one attempt contact God.

He prayed fervently, earnestly,

pilgrim prayed prayer repeatedly,

Mr Walford, tho blind, prayed often for help.

"Tragedy To Triumph"

Act V Gethsemane

Text: Mark 14:34-36, "And he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch.' And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed, that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, 'Abba Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt.'"

In Act V of our Lenten drama we are now confronted for the first time with a tenseness and an urgency that has not been present before. The reason being that we are now moving into the final stages of this drama. Jesus knows that He is facing the toughest ordeal of His life. He realizes that by his actions he has provoked the authorities, and He knows they will stop at nothing to silence Him.

Luke's account of Gethsemane starts off with, "And he went as was his custom to the Mount of Olives." We find in this statement some evidence that would support the claim that Jesus prayed often and sought God's help in his life. So it was only natural for Him to come to the garden to pray in this his greatest hour of trial. Luke also tries to impress upon his readers the very real urgency of Jesus' praying by stating that he prayed so hard ~~that~~ his sweat fell to the ground like large drops of blood. This indicates that he was in great anguish both mental and physical and that there was a great burden upon him.

But the thing that stands out very clearly in this narrative, is the fact that in his hour of need, his favorite companions more or less deserted him. Each time he goes away from them to pray he comes back only to find them asleep. Each time he expects them to be sharing his anxiety, and his apprehension of the future. But each time he is disappointed and finds them ~~asleep~~ **SLEEPING.**

Thus we see in this instance the very humanity of these men. They were not facing the ordeal and so it was his problem ~~and~~ not theirs. Perhaps they had the attitude, "Well, let him look out for himself, just like we must do, when we have a problem." Perhaps they felt that he would

resolve this problem as he had so many others. Maybe they thought back to the calming of the sea when all seemed lost at that moment. Maybe they thought back to the miracles he seemed to be able to whip up at a moments notice, and were thinking that he would do this again if the need arose. But whatever their thinking, we know they were at ease and they permitted Jesus to have the privacy he sought and they did not disturb him.

But the one thing they did for him and probably never realized it until he was dead, and that was, they left him alone. They permitted him to suffer the pangs of complete isolation and the despair of facing it all alone. We are told that one of the worst things a person can endure is loneliness. Many of our aged must endure this in the institutions for the elderly. Being cut off, and apart from other friends and relatives, must be very difficult to endure. The prisoners who have returned have all stated that the hardest thing they had to endure was the complete loneliness that was thrust upon them.

Well, this is what Jesus must have endured in Gethsemane. We cannot minimize it by saying that he was surrounded by friends, because he wasn't. He was surrounded by indifferent, unfeeling and perhaps uncaring men. Men, for whom he had done much. Men who should have cared for him as much as he cared for them.

But even with the desertion of his disciples, and even with the dread of the unknown, He came to God and sought His help. Did He find it? Was His prayer answered? According to Hebrews 5:7 it was, for we read, "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his Godly fear."

Prayer is a strange undefinable something that lacks description. We can talk about it, we can explain it to someone, but unless that person tries it or has experienced its power, it still remains a mystery. In a wonderful book entitled, "The Way of A Pilgrim" by an

unknown author is found a very good illustration of prayer. This book is supposedly a true account of a man's life and his lifelong search for the answers to life. It takes place in Russia ~~about~~ around the 1860's. The pilgrim in the book is never identified and he writes it as though he were relating the story to a friend.

In the first chapter he goes to church and he hears the priest refer to Paul's remark in I Thessalonians 5:17, to pray without ceasing. This sets him to wondering about this and he begins to inquire how to do this. He is unable to find anyone who can answer his question. So he begins to journey to other towns seeking the answer. Each place he is told something different but nothing satisfies him until he comes to this little town and is told there is an old monk in a monastery nearby who could help him. He goes to the old monk and the monk tells him to pray, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." Just this and nothing else and he must pray it 3000 times a day.

Well, he ~~was~~ found a place to stay, and he began to pray the prayer. At first he found it difficult, but finally he was able to do it. So he goes back to the monk and tells him and the monk replies, "Good, now go home and pray it 6000 times a day." He thinks this is impossible, but he tries it and strangely enough he is able to do it, and he does it for a whole week. He goes to the monk again and the monk tells him to pray it 12,000 times a day. He tells him, "Remain in your solitude, get up early, go to bed late, and come to see me in a fortnight."

So he does this and he finds that after awhile he does not need to say the prayer because his mouth and his voice do it automatically. He finds that he not only can pray without ceasing, but in the process he has found God. So all of his prayers and all of the mechanics of it, served a very worthwhile cause. And this is what prayer should do, it should put us in touch with God.

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake the Presbyterian clergyman who was

responsible for the COCU movement once said, "If I say prayer will help you to peace and power, to wisdom and to vision, these very practical considerations are beside the point. There is but one reason sufficient in itself. Prayer is the way to know God, to glorify Him, to enjoy Him forever, and this it is we hold to be the chief end of man. For life is not really life at all until it becomes life in God."

A minister noticed that a little boy ~~xxxxxx~~ came into the church many times during the week. He would sit in a pew and bow his head. So one day he asked him about it. The Boy said, "I like to come, here for prayer. It makes me feel bigger than I am." This is what the result of prayer should be, that we feel bigger than we are, because our lives become lives lived in God.

There are many examples of prayer and what it does, but I would like to share just a few with you to help explain ~~the~~ prayer.

~~(Illustration of Sweet Hour of Prayer)~~

(Illustration of Sweet Hour of Prayer).

This morning we sang this hymn as our opening hymn. Here is how a man who was blind viewed prayer.

(Illustration of David Brainerd Missionary and Indians).

Here God answered the prayers of one of His servants in a miraculous way. Perhaps we may not need a prayer answered in such a spectacular fashion, nor with such unexpected endings. But just as surely as God has answered the prayers of many others in many different ways, He will answer our prayers. He answered the fervent prayers of His Son Jesus Christ, so He had the strength and the courage to face His destiny, and He will answer our prayers as well.

~~Helel Abner Rice wrote a poem entitled, "Prayers Can't Be Answered Unless They Are Prayed," which states what prayer is all about very well.~~

~~But there is one thing that has occurred in each of these~~
But there is one thing that has occurred in each of these

instances of prayer. In each one we can see that an attempt was made to contact God. Jesus prayed earnestly and fervently to God in this His greatest hour of need. Mr. Walford though handicapped with blindness, prayed often to God for help. Mr. Brainerd in a strange place and surrounded by an unknown danger, sought God for his help and strength. In each instance prayer was offered. We cannot expect God to help us or to hear us if we do not ask for His help and guidance. We must pray and pray, and pray, and then expect God to answer as He will.

Helen Steiner Rice wrote a little poem along these lines and she called it, "Prayers Can't Be Answered Unless They Are Prayed."









Ralph C. Link
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Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.

Reverend Ralph Link

April 9, 1929 ~ May 4, 2011

Reverend Ralph Link, 82, of Sarver, Pennsylvania, passed away on May 4, 2011 at 11:20 a.m. at the Good Samaritan Hospice Unit at Concordia.

He was born April 9, 1929 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to the late Lee Albert Link and Minnie Francis (Gruener) Link.

Reverend Link was a member of the Allegheny Presbyterian Church in Leechburg, Pennsylvania. He was a minister in the Butler Area for many years, and he also was a ceramic tile contractor. Reverend Link was a veteran of the United States Army serving in the Korean War. He also enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, clocks and model trains.

Reverend Link is survived by his loving spouse Shirley M. (Neill) Link whom he married on December 15, 1951, two sons - R. Dale Link and his wife, Lianne of Fenton, MI and Lloyd Alan Link and his wife, Karen of Butler, PA; one daughter - Nancy Lynn Double and her husband, Gary of Petrolia, PA; seven grandchildren and also by a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by one sister and three brothers.

Friends will be received at Thompson - Miller Funeral Home, Inc., 124 East North Street Butler, Pennsylvania Friday, May 6, 2011 from 2:00 to 4:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be held on, at the Allegheny Presbyterian Church, Leechburg, Pennsylvania on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. with Lay Minister, Lloyd Riggle of Allegheny Presbyterian Church officiating.

Burial will take place in the St. Paul's Cemetery of Reserve Township, 2103 Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Family suggests donations be made to donor's favorite charity.
Online condolences can be given at www.thompson-miller.com.

RALPH CHARLES LINK – PROMOTED TO HEAVEN